N O T I C E

Effective 1 April, the Iran and South Asia sections of the FBIS Middle East & North Africa DAILY REPORT will be incorporated into a new South Asia DAILY REPORT. The Middle East & North Africa DAILY REPORT will be renamed Middle East & Africa and will include material on Sub-Saharan Africa effective the same date.

Most Government subscribers will automatically receive both books. Those who prefer to receive only one book, should contact their distribution control office or FBIS, (Area Code 703 527-2368). NTIS subscribers who wish to receive both reports at no extra charge should call NTIS immediately, (Area Code 703 557-4630).

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 059 *25 March 1980*

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Abu Iyad Outlines PLO Stand on Mideast Problems A 1
Speech on Foreign Relations A 1
Statement to Qatari Paper A 2
Discussion of Regional Issue [Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM 16 Mar] A 3
Palestine National Council Reported to Meet on 26 Apr A 6
[Amman AD-DUSTUR 25 Mar]
VOP Comments on 'Zionist' Decision to Settle Hebron [24 Mar] A 6
AL-WATAN: Steadfastness Meeting Put Off Due to Libya-PLO Dispute A 7
Arab Labor Unions Offer Syria Aid of 'Armed Factions' A 7

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

Minister Denies Cash Flow Problems Due to Interest Rate C 1
AL-QABAS Scores Bani-Sadr's Remarks on Gulf Islands [23 Mar] C 1

PDRY

Isma'il Condemns 'Storm' Against Afghan People C 2

SAUDI ARABIA

King Receives Austrian Defense Minister C 3
Economic Agreement Signed With Australia C 3
Committee Appointed to Speed Up Drafting Statutes [AR-RIYAD 19 Mar] C 3
Meeting Held C 4
Commentary Attacks 'Major Powers' Stand on Soviet Action C 4

UAE

Fatah's Salah Khalaf Arrives on Visit 23 Mar C 5
Meets Shaykh Zayid C 5
Cabinet Approves $4.26 Billion Budget for 1980 C 5

YAR

PDRY Defense Minister Departs at End of Visit C 6
Joint Economic Committee Begins Meeting 24 Mar C 6
Salih: Relations With Saudi Arabia Becoming Stronger C 7
[London AL-HAWADITH 21 Mar]

EGYPT

Statement Officially Welcomes Former Shah D 1
Statement on Arrival D 1
Conditions is 'Reassuring' D 1
No Report on Shah's Health D 1
As-Sadat Visits Shah D 2
Delegates Leave for Steering Committee Meetings in Tel Aviv D 3
Ninth Plenary Session of Autonomy Talks to Begin 27 Mar D 3
Ghali Briefs British Ambassador on Autonomy Talks D 3
Al-Baz Interviewed on Coming Palestinian Talks in Alexandria D 3

Cairo Reports Departure of Israel's Tzipori D 4
Sierra Leone Foreign Minister Leaves Cairo D 4
Foreign Ministry Official's Statement on Fighting in Chad D 4

IRAQ

Cuban Minister Levi Farah Arrives 22 Mar E 1
Meets Deputy Premier Ramadan E 1
Meets Housing Minister E 1
French Envoy Arrives With Message for Saddam Husayn E 1
Meets President E 2
Ba'th Official Meets South Yemen Opposition Leaders E 2
Further Report E 2
State Minister 'Alwan Leaves for Tunis 23 Mar E 3
Na'im Haddad Pinpoints National Charter's Objectives E 3

JORDAN

King Husayn Meets With Algeria's Bendjedid 24 Mar F 1
King Husayn Telephones Iraqi President F 1

SYRIA

Media Provide Few Reports on Domestic Unrest H 1
National Progressive Front Holds Speech Rally 21 Mar H 3

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Algerian-Gambian Joint Statement Issued I 1

LIBYA

Iran's Khalkhali Arrives on Visit I 3
Chad Situation Discussed With Niger Delegation I 3
Niger President's Statement I 3
Departure of President I 4
Tripoli Reports Lebanese Discussion of Air Support Offer I 4
OAU Secretary General Ends Visit I 4
JANA Editor Says Egypt Camouflaging New Aggression I 4

SUDAN

Numayri Interviewed on Arab, Gulf Situation I 5
Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on Arab League Anniversary I 7

ISRAEL

Ambassador Linowitz Continues Talks on Settlements N 1
Israeli Concessions Seen N 1
News Conference in Jerusalem N 1
Agreements Made to Expedite Autonomy Talks N 2
Begin Reassures As-Sadat N 2
Acceleration of Talks N 2
Israel Willing to Help Treat Shah of Iran N 2
Foreign Minister Shamir Interviewed on Egypt, U.S. Relations N 2
Begin Decides to Approve EEC Office in Tel Aviv N 7

Hebron Settlement Sparks Intense Controversy N 7
Appeal to Knesset N 7
No Vote on 27 Mar N 7
Discussion May Be Expedited N 8
West Bank Strike N 8
Commentary in 'AL HAMISHMAR [24 Mar] N 8
Cost of Implementing Decision [HATZOFE 24 Mar] N 8
Israeli Crews Bring Egyptian Oil to Elat [YEDI'OT AHARONOT 23 Mar] N 9

IRAN

[For material on Iran normally appearing in this DAILY REPORT see the supplement to the 25 March Middle East & North Africa DAILY REPORT, No 059, Supplement 071]

SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

French Correspondents Discuss Conditions in Konarha Province S 1
Soviet Troops Control Road From Kabul to Soviet Border S 1
Ratebzad Returns From Tour of Eastern Bloc Countries S 3
Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand To Meet Delegation in Moscow S 3
Panjshiri Meets Balkh Province Militarymen 22 Mar S 3
Minister Fayz Mohammed Addresses Tribes in Paktia Province S 4
Kabul Radio Reports New Year Festivities in Mazar-e Sharif, Kabul S 4
Khan Abdol Qafar Khan Hails Soviet 'Aid' S 5
National Oil Institute Reports Above-Plan Successes S 6
USSR Helps Nation Subsidize Sugar Imports S 6
Kabul Reports Planned Natural Gas Exports to USSR S 6
Bank Shareholders To Receive Suspended Remittances S 7

BANGLADESH

General Assembly Declared To Mark Independence Day S 7
Amnesty Ordered for 793 Persons S 7

INDIA

USSR Advises 'Slow Down' in Efforts To Solve Afghan Crisis S 8
President Greets Pakistan's Haq on National Day S 8
Ghandi May Send Emissary to Pakistan S 8
Meets Delegates to Peace Conference S 9
Janata-Ruled Delhi Metropolitan Council Dissolved S 9
Opposition Members Protest Dissolution S 9
Demonstration Held Outside Pakistan, Soviet Embassies in Delhi S 10
Aijal March Condemns Mizo Rebel Violence S 10
Additional Report on Demonstration S 10
200 Arrested in West Bengal S 11
CPI Splits, Group Forms Separate Party S 11
Pakistan Refugees Agitate for Citizenship S 12
'Mishap' Releases Radioactive Water From Nuclear Plant S 12
16 Million Tons of Crude Oil To Be Imported S 12
U.S. To Provide Economic Aid Worth $135 Million S 13
Bulgarian Foreign Minister Arrives for 4-Day Visit S 13

NEPAL

Indian Student Agitation Creates Oil Shortages S 13

PAKISTAN

President Haq Addresses Military Parade on National Day	S 14
PRC Leader Greet President Haq on National Day	S 15
President Haq Says Links Maintained With Moscow, Kabul Unconditional Aid Welcomed	S 15
FRG Parliamentarian Promises Aid to Solve Refugee Problems	S 15
Turkish Air Force Chief Leaves Karachi for Ankara 21 Mar	S 16
Cuban Foreign Minister Arrives 25 Mar	S 16
	S 16

ABU IYAD OUTLINES PLO STAND ON MIDEAST PROBLEMS

Speech on Foreign Relations

JN241755 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1645 GMT 24 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 24 March--Palestinian resistance leader Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, has praised UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan's role in support of the Palestinian people's cause.

Salah Khalaf also praised the UAE's role in promoting the Palestinian-Japanese dialog, but stated that a Japanese invitation to the PLO must come directly from the Japanese Government and not from any parliamentary body.

In an interview with the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY today, Salam Khalaf warned against a Zionist-colonialist scheme, currently under preparation, which intends to strike at southern Lebanon and Syria in order to cover for the failure of the so-called autonomy talks.

Referring to Syria's decision to open its borders to resistance action, Salah Khalaf said that this decision will mean a qualitative and quantitative leap for resistance action and will render the Syrian and southern Lebanese fronts a single front for confrontation with the Zionist enemy.

On the European initiative, Salah Khalaf said that it will be very fruitful if it takes place independently of the U.S. move, linked to Camp David.

Salah Khalaf added that the purpose of his tour of Arab countries is to inform their officials of the latest developments in the Palestinian cause and of the setbacks suffered by Camp David, particularly in regard to the so-called autonomy talks, which were rejected by the Palestinian people, who have pledged commitment to the PLO as their leader in the struggle.

Salah Khalaf expressed the hope that the UAE will continue with its positive role to convince Japan and cause the Japanese Government to invite a Palestinian delegation, led by Yasir 'Arafat, to visit Japan, on the condition that such an invitation be extended directly bh the Japanese Government and not by any parliamentary body.

On the European initiative in regard to the Palestinian cause, Salah Khalaf said: This move is very fruitful for our cause, if it takes place independently of the U.S. move, which is linked to the Camp David policy.

Referring to French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing's visit to several Arab countries, during which the Palestinian people's right to determine their fate was recognized, Salah Khalaf said: This distinctive French position needs to be followed up by the Arab countries and the PLO. He expressed regret at reports about a postponement of the EEC's discussion of the subject of the PLO. Salah Khalaf added: I believe that this position resulted from pressures by the United States and the Camp David parties. This calls for doubling Arab efforts to follow up on the European move.

On Syria's decision to open its borders to the resistance, Salah Khalaf said that this decision, which has been made more than once, acquires special importance at this time, because Syria wants to expose the conspiratorial attempts directed against it, particularly by those inside Syria. The latter are now launching a barbaric onslaught against the government and the regime in order to divert attention from what is taking place inside the occupied territories and the failure of all attempts to subjugate our people and Arab nation, particularly in the wake of the Egyptian-Israeli normalization of relations.

Statement to Qatari Paper

JN241156 Doha QNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 24 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpts] Doha, 24 March--Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, has praised the new European stand on the Palestine question. He described it as different from the U.S. line, which is both intransigent and completely partial to Israel.

Abu Iyad said: We do not expect the new European move to offer us "a ready-made Palestinian state." This European move is part of a number of political victories which, along with other victories, may constitute a worldwide public opinion which has both pressure and effect enough to create a world balance of power through which the enemy will realize that it has become isolated in this world.

In a statement to the Qatari newspaper AR-RAYAH published today, Salah Khalaf said: The European move alone cannot change the balance of power. The roles of Syria, Jordan, Algeria, Arab oil and the Arab economy can change balances through a unified Arab plan.

Abu Iyad expressed hope that the new European move will be isolated from the U.S. plan, pointing out that if these moves are linked to the U.S. plots, they will be doomed to failure because of U.S. partiality to the Zionist enemy.

On his concept of the means needed to establish the Palestinian state, Abu Iyad said: The birth of the Palestinian state needs certain world balances of power and strong Arab will capable of wresting this Arab right. Through its current intransigence represented by Begin and Shamir, the enemy will not agree to compromise except through continued and effective pressure.

Commenting on the situation in Lebanon after the proposal of the national accord, Abu Iyad expressed the opinion that the adequate solution for the Lebanese crisis lies in all the parties rallying around Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis and supporting the national accord's principles. Abu Iyad said that these principles represent all Lebanon.

Abu Iyad reaffirmed the Palestinian revolution's eagerness for returning calm and stability to Lebanon. He expressed the PLO's readiness to cooperate with the Lebanese authority in order to achieve national accord in Lebanon and thus restore security and stability to Lebanon.

Commenting on the relationship between the Palestinian revolution and the Iranian revolution, Abu Iyad said: We support the Iranian revolution as far as its anti-imperialist-Zionist position is concerned. He said: We did not change our position in this respect because the Iranian revolution is still proceeding along this line.

The Palestinian leader called for the establishment of integration between the Arab states and Iran. He said: We believe in the vitality of this concept because it guarantees that contradiction will not exist between us as Arabs and Iran despite the fact that the Iranian revolution entertains some ideological and political concepts different from ours.

Abu Iyad reiterated the Palestinian people's rejection of the proposed autonomy plan, pointing out that this plan allows authority over people but not over territory. He said that the independent Palestinian state remains the best framework for the fragmented Palestinian people.

Discussion of Regional Issues

LD241345 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 16 Mar 80 p 17 LD

[Interview Given to 'Abdallah al-Quq by Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf--date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] It is being said that As-Sadat has done something, especially after the Camp David agreement, but what have the Arabs done and what is the alternative?

[Answer] I am glad you asked this question, which is being reiterated by the people. People are asking: As-Sadat has recovered two-thirds of Sinai, what have you done? We, in our turn, ask: Is the recovery of Sinai the central issue? Has Sinai ever been the basis issue or is the Palestinian people's cause the central issue? I recall the statement which the late President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir made in 1967. After the first meeting with him following the defeat, he told us: If I had wanted to recover Sinai, I could have done that just by ending the state of war, provided Egypt isolated itself from the Arab world and also from the Palestinian issue. I do not agree to these two conditions.

What has the Camp David agreement accomplished? It has brought forth an autonomy unparalleled in history except in Poland, Begin's birthplace, where, as a reward for their stand during the war, the Jewish quarter was granted the type of self-government they are now talking about applying in Palestine. This type of government has no control over land or resources. Moreover, this type of government will not solve the problem. I say that granting me a Palestinian state while restricting the size of its population is rejected part and parcel because that would not solve the problem. The problem of the Palestinians is greater outside than inside [the occupied territories] and no matter how much some people try to plot against the Palestinians, I affirm that such plots will not succeed, not because we have self-confidence but because we are convinced of the justness of our cause and of the Arab masses' support for us.

It is true that As-Sadat has regained part of Sinai, but what has he done to Egypt? He has given the whole of Egypt to the Americans. You will see what role the Israeli ambassador will play in Egypt if As-Sadat continues in power. The ambassador's role will be more important than that of the British high commissioner during the British mandate.

[Question] Can you tell us what is the relationship between the PLO and Syria?

[Answer] The Palestinian revolution's relationship with Syria is a strategic one. It is a good relationship and it must continue to be so. Should any harm come to Syria, God forbid, the Arab cause and the Palestinian cause will be completely jeopardized. That would be a calamity.

We are confident that Egypt will return to the Arab fold however much As-Sadat tries to prolong the life of his regime. The Arab world will suffer complete collapse should Syria fall, God forbid.

[Question] The point of the present concentration on Syria is to create unrest there and strike at the anti-Camp David front.

[Answer] Will the current intrigues in Syria lead to a coup against Hafiz al-Asad? I emphasize that this will not happen because I am fully aware of the structure of the Syrian Army and of the situation in Syria. No coup can possibly take place. In Syria and in Palestine we have never experienced sectarianism. Under Islam, this sectarian sedition [in Syria] is a gross violation of the concept of Islam. It serves the parties to Camp David. It is ridiculous that As-Sadat is ruling comfortably and Syria is experiencing unrest, and why exactly after 1977--after As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem?

As a Palestinian revolution official, I stress that any civil war in Syria would set the Palestinian cause back 100 years. The result of such a war would be the emergence of mini-states that would contribute to the consolidation of the state of Israel.

[Question] There has been much talk about Abu 'Ammar's [PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat] visit to Japan. What is the truth about this visit? Is there a change in the Japanese position regarding the Palestinian issue?

[Answer] An invitation was extended to Abu 'Ammar by a Japanese parliamentary committee. Brother Abu al-Lutf visited Japan and met with the prime minister and the foreign minister, even though the invitation was not from the government. Some oil states, particularly the UAE, have urged Japan to change its attitude towards the PLO and to invite Abu 'Ammar to visit Japan. The Japanese will lose many of their interests in the Middle East because of their nonpositive attitude toward the Palestinian issue. The Japanese are degrading themselves when they make it a condition that they would extend an official invitation to Abu 'Ammar in return for an increase in their share of oil. This is tantamount to cheap bargaining and is rejected.

Japan's attitude toward the Arab states suggest blackmail. This requires the adoption of a firm stand against Japan to make it reconsider its policy in the area. We refuse any invitation reaching the PLO from parliamentary committees. We will not visit Japan except on an official invitation from the Japanese Government. Either Japan recognizes the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, or we do not want such an invitation. We must make the Japanese understand our attitude clearly.

[Question] A lot has been said and is being said about Afghanistan. President al-Asad said that he will not go to Pakistan for the sake of Palestine. The PLO sent a delegation but without giving it authority to do anything. What is your attitude toward the events in Afghanistan?

[Question] I would like to say that President al-Asad's statement was clear--namely, our stand with the Soviet Union is for the sake of Palestine. The Soviet Union is putting all its capabilities at the service of the Arab cause and has a clear stand toward the Palestinian issue.

Primarily, we are against any foreign intervention in the affairs of any state but we must understand the motives for such action. The Arab states should have met with Soviet representatives to learn the reasons for their action in Afghanistan. The intervention took place at the request of the legitimate government in Afghanistan. When foreign or outside intervention in Afghanistan ends, the Soviet Union will withdraw. All of us should encourage this trend instead of launching a hysterical campaign against the Soviet Union and strongly defending the United States as if it is the protector of Islam.

[Question] Brother Abu Iyad, there appears to be a rift in relations within the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front as a result of existing differences. Can you throw some light on these relations since the PLO is a member of this front?

[Answer] The Steadfastness and Confrontation Front occupies a forward position in the Arab world. The front is not an axis and it does not have private interests. Inter-Arab differences are not confined to the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front; they exist everywhere. I believe that there is no justification at all for the estrangement between Syria and Iraq. Every sincere Arab is trying to restore normal relations between Syria and Iraq. We did not fabricate any dispute with Libya. A few days ago I heard As-Sadat was planning to invade Libya. We emphasize here that we are with Libya at any time it is subjected to danger, irrespective of our dispute with it, because we believe that the real danger comes from As-Sadat and the As-Sadat/Israeli/American alliance. We hope that our disputes with Libya will be overcome.

[Question] Can you talk to us about Palestinian-Iranian relations and the dispatch of Iranian volunteers to Lebanon?

[Answer] Regarding the Iranian volunteers, we have asked our brothers in Iran to study this step very closely in order to deprive Israel and the Americans of the opporutnity to intervene in Lebanon under the pretext of the presence of the Iranian volunteers. I believe that this step is being studied rather than implemented. Many Iranian volunteers have returned to Iran, despite the fact that only a few persons who were previously in Lebanon had come to the south.

[Question] Brother Abu Iyad, attempts are being made to drive a wedge and cause sedition between the Palestinians and the Gulf states by trying to make some of them believe that the Iranians and Palestinians have formed an alliance. What is your answer to this?

[Answer] I wonder in whose interest we would establish such an alliance; I can understand the establishment of an Arab-Iranian alliance to confront Israel. This is the only kind of alliance acceptable to us. Talk about an Iranian-Palestinian alliance is mere fantasy and is intended to cause a rift between the Palestinians and the Gulf states in particular and the Arab states in general, so that it will be said that the Palsetinian revolution has become alined at the expense of the Arabs. It is true that some Palestinians are encountering many difficulties in obtaining entry visas to the Gulf states and also in other formalities. The brothers in the Gulf area, however, must remember the role we have played and the contribution we have made in to develop the Gulf in the educational, cultural and informational field.

Regarding Israel's possession of an atom bomb, Abu Iyad says: Where will Israel use this bomb? Will it use it in Lebanon? If it does, then the bomb will also hit Israel itself. The same thing applies to Syria. I do not believe that Israel will use the bomb in Aswan following the [normalization of] Egyptian-Israeli relations. Therefore, the atom bomb is a trick within the context of the psychological warfare Israel is using to make the people submit to a fait accompli. Abu Iyad added: If Israel was to use this bomb in any way, that would signify a change in the balance of power in the area. This means that the Soviet Union will give such a bomb to the Arabs in order to bring about a balance of power. I emphasize that the existence or nonexistence of such a bomb in Israel does not frighten us at all.

PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL REPORTED TO MEET ON 26 APR

JN250836 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Mar 80 p 1 JN

[Text] Damascus--A Palestinian source in Damascus emphasized yesterday that the Palestine National Council [PNC] will hold its next meeting at the end of April, most likely on 26 April.

It has been learned from a Palestinian source that the PNC will introduce some important changes to the structure of the PLO Executive Committee.

VOP COMMENTS ON 'ZIONIST' DECISION TO SETTLE HEBRON

NC241701 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab world 1530 GMT 24 Mar 80 NC

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] At long last, the Zionist Cabinet has issued a resolution to settle Hebron despite the row that ensued within the Zionist Cabinet over this issue.

This decision comes at a time when urgent preparations are being made by the Camp David parties to hold their summit in order to give a new momentum to the autonomy talks, which have reached in impasse.

Despite predictions by some observers that this decision would irritate As-Sadat and Carter and make the White House angry at the Begin government, indications are that such a scenario has no foundation whatsoever, and that the U.S. President is not in any position to express anger or bitterness at Israel. This prompted Begin to take the decision to settle Hebron.

This decision came at the same time that Carter declared his unequivocal support of the Zionist attitude on Jerusalem and the Palestinian state as well as his administration's support of Jerusalem's continued unification forever, which has been Begin's traditional attitude. Carter also declared--perhaps for the umpteenth time--that his administration opposed the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Since this has become the U.S. traditional position in the Middle East, its overstatement and overaffirmation clearly indicate the White House master's shameful position inherent in his embracing of the Zionists in order to gain a fistful of votes so that he can get reelected.

The decision to settle Hebron--which did not come to pass without U.S. support, or at least without its turning a blind eye--will certainly lead to the crystallization of a Palestinian popular stand that will reject this decision and fight with all the means at its disposal to prevent its implementation.

AL-WATAN: STEADFASTNESS MEETING POSTPONED DUE TO LIBYA-PLO DISPUTE

LD241014 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1720 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 24 March--The Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front faced the possibility of freezing its activities because of the dispute between two of its five members--Libya and the PLO--the Kuwaiti paper AL-WATAN reports today.

The paper refers to the postponement of the summit meeting which was scheduled to be held by the front in Damascus on Friday and says that the meeting has been indefinitely postponed and that it is very likely that it will not be held at all.

The front, which consists of Syria, Algeria, the PDRY, Libya and the PLO, was set up toward the end of 1977 to fight the peace policy with Israel pursued by Egyptian President Anwar As-Sadat.

The paper adds that the reason for the postponement was the quarrel between Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the PLO leadership toward the end of last year and that the quarrel was stabilized but not settled.

The paper also says that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi still insists on the formation of a revolutionary committee to run the PLO's affairs in Libya, and it was because of this that he refused to respond to the good offices of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Algerian President Ghadli Bendjedid.

On the other hand, the PLO rejects Al-Qadhdhafi's view and considers it to be interference in its own affairs, according to the paper.

ARAB LABOR UNIONS OFFER SYRIA AID OF 'ARMED FACTIONS'

JN242018 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 24 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus--At 1515 Today, His Excellency President al-Asad received Hamid Abu-Bakr Jallud, secretary general of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions [ICATU] and 'Umar Mas'ad, Sulayman 'Ali Ahmad and Juman Hasan, assistants to the secretary general.

They expressed to President al-Asad the Arab working masses' appreciation of Syria's honorable pan-Arab stand and the Arabs' pride in Syria's steadfastness, for Syria constitutes the first Arab confrontation line.

They also explained that they have ordered Arab labor unions to adopt practical measures to support Syria, adding that ICATU's positions in support of Syria are not only political positions. They also expressed their hope that they will be allowed to form armed factions from Arab labor unions that will come to Syria to fight with Syrian workers, because they are convinced that those who are acting against Syria are doing so under imperialist orders, to serve the Camp David scheme and weaken and foil Arab steadfastness.

KUWAIT

MINISTER DENIES CASH FLOW PROBLEMS DUE TO INTEREST RATE

LD240952 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0724 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 24 March--'Abd ar-Rahman al-'Atiqi, Kuwaiti finance minister, has affirmed that Kuwait does not plan to raise its 10 percent interest rate despite the increase in interest rates in Western countries. In a statement to the newspaper AL-QABAS, published here today, the minister said he sees no justification for increasing interest rate at present particularly as such a move will only benefit speculators.

Al-'Atiqi denied there was a local cash flow crisis in Kuwait due to the flight of Kuwaiti funds abroad in quest of higher interest rates. He added "those who were attracted [by higher rates elsewhere] have done nothing wrong, for it is their legitimate right and Kuwaiti laws guarantee freedom of investment anywhere." He added that this has had no negative effect locally.

The minister also rejected the idea of raising the value of the Kuwaiti dinar.

AL-QABAS SCORES BANI-SADR'S REMARKS ON GULF ISLANDS

GF241345 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 23 Mar 80 p 1 GF

[Editorial: "Bani-Sadr Has Begun to Discover the Shah's Virtues"]

[Text] Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr has not been successful in facing and tackling serious issues, so this time he has turned to Gulf affairs in the manner of an impotent blusterer. This is assuming that the remarks attributed to the Iranian president are true, and that no corollary statement is issued clarifying, justifying, retracting or denying these remarks--although the paper (AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI) in which these remarks were published is reliable.

It is strange that President Bani-Sadr should set aside Iran's numerous and acute domestic problems--problems that require all his energy and good will--and search for old wounds whose scars are still to be found in Arab hearts, namely the Persian occupation of the Islands of Greater and Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa. These islands were occupied by the forces of the shah when he was at the peak of his arrogance and tyranny.

When we read these strange remarks yesterday it was difficult to discern any differences between the attitude of the shah, the occupant of the Pahlavi throne, and that of Bani-Sadr, the virtuous son of the Islamic Revolution. It is strange that the Iranian Islamic Revolution, which has denounced the shah and his crimes in all fields without exception, would recently discover this one "virtue" during his long years of rule, namely his occupation of these Arab islands in the Gulf. It is even stranger that the president of the Iranain Islamic Republic should defend the shah, justify the crime of his occupation of the islands and support this occupation. Thus, it clearly emerges that to don the garb of tolerant Islam cannot mask imperialist and expansionist intentions.

We in the Gulf have always sought to establish the sincerest and best relations with our Muslim neighbor, Iran, particularly in the era of its blessed revolution.

However, President Bani-Sadr did not allow the people of the Gulf to enjoy naive dreams. His remarks have torn that magnificent revolutionary mask to reveal that old-new face that we do not wish for Muslim Iran and its Islamic Revolution.

PDRY

ISMA'IL CONDEMNS 'STORM' AGAINST AFGHAN PEOPLE

LD241920 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, has declared that a conference of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front will be convened shortly. He said that consultations among members of the front indicate the early convening of such a conference in view of the current Arab situation and stepped up activities in the plot of the Camp David alliance. In an interview for the Bulgarian TV team currently visiting Aden, he said that the forthcoming Steadfastness and Confrontation Front conference will be very significant in view of the changing situation. It will be examining possibilities for stepping up the momentum of the Arab struggle to confront the plots of imperialism, Zionism and As-Sadat in the Middle East. He stressed that the front commands great resources and is capable of exercising various pressures to put an end to the plots of imperialism, Zionism and As-Sadat in the Middle East.

Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il touched on numerous Arab and foreign issues and events in the interview. He pointed out that current developments in Asia are very positive following the victory of the peoples of Indochina and the revolutions in Iran and Afghanistan. He condemned the storm raised by the imperialist and reactionary forces against the Afghan people, describing it as a conspiracy to launch feverish campaigns to divert world public opinion from the Mideast issue. He stressed Democratic Yemen's position in support of the Afghan people and their right to choose their own independent path toward development.

In reply to a question, the secretary general said that among current internal issues, the economic issue is the most important, in view of its being fundamental to the creation of radical transformations in the peoples' living standards in the economic, political, social and cultural spheres. The creative capacities of the masses of our people must be assessed so as to enable them to develop the new economic structures in the country and to establish the material and technological bases for further development. He explained that the process of economic construction in an extremely backward country such as ours is a complex task requiring great effort, particularly toward strengthening the state and cooperative sectors and enabling the public sector to exercise leadership in the country's economic processes.

He stressed that Democratic Yemen's relations with the People's Republic of Bulgaria are developing in the spheres of the parties, governments and peoples of the two friendly countries. He said the relations are growing deeper and stronger in all areas. He expressed satisfaction at the level reached by these relations, particularly in the area of the disinterested aid Bulgaria is giving our country in various industrial, agricultural and cultural fields. He pointed out that on the political plane, the two countries share common views on current international issues, based on the common goals and principles linking them in the interests of progress and peace in the world.

SAUDI ARABIA

KING RECEIVES AUSTRIAN DEFENSE MINISTER

LD241712 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1620 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Riyadh--At 1845 this evening, King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received at his palace in Al-Ma'dhar Austrian Defense Minister Otto Roesch and the accompanying delegation now on a visit to the kingdom. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister, and by Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation.

ECONOMIC AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH AUSTRIALIA

LD231232 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1045 GMT 23 Mar 80 LD

[Text Riyadh, 23 March--a Saudi Arabian-Australian technical and economic cooperation agreement was signed here at noon today by Dr Sulayman as-Sulaym, minister of commerce, for Saudi Arabia and by J. Douglas Anthony, deputy prime minister and minister of trade and resources, for Australia.

The agreement provides for closer friendly relations between the kingdom and Australia and for the development and blostering of technical and economic cooperation between them particularly in the field of agricultural, animal, industrial and technical development projects of interest to both countries.

The agreement regulates trade promotion between the tow countries and provides for the exchange of information on scientific and technological studies. It also provides for the setting up of a joint committee to meet alternately in both countries to discuss measures and ways to bolster technical and economic cooperation between them.

The agreement will come into force as of the date of the exchange of instruments of ratification, according to the laws in operation in both countries. It will be initially valid for 3 years and thereafter automatically renewed for periods of 1 year unless one side informs the other 6 months before its expiry of its intention to terminate it.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO SPEED UP DRAFTING STATUTES

LD240817 Riyadh AR-RIYAD in Arabic 19 Mar 80 pp 1,15 LD

[Unattributed report: "His Majesty Orders That the Issuing of Statutes on the Government, Consultative Council and Provinces Be Expedited"]

[Text] His majesty the king has ordered that the issuing of the basic rule statute, the consultative council statute, and the provinces statute be expedited. A committee has been set up under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Amir Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the minister of the interior, in order to complete the drafting of thethree statutes and their finalization before being submitted to his majesty the king for his approval, prior to their implementation. The committee has already started its work.

The royal court yesterday issued a statement stressing his majesty's desire that the drafting of these statutes be speeded up. The following is text of the statement:

The royal court is pleased to announce that, on the instructions of his majesty the king and in accordance with his desire that the basic rule statute, the consultative council statute, and the provinces statute be finalized before they are approved and implemented, a committee has been set up under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Amir Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of the interior, with the following as members

1. Minister of Justice Shaykh Ibrahim ibn Muhammad Al ash-Shaykh.
2. Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Shaykh Ibrahim al-'Anqari.
3. Minister of Pilgrimage Affairs and Awqaf Shaykh 'Abd al-Wahhab 'Abd al-Wasi'.
4. Minister of State Shaykh Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud.
5. Minister of State Dr Muhammad al-Mulhim.
6. Chief of Complaints Bureau Shaykh Muhammad ibn Jubayr.
7. His Eminence Shaykh Salih al-Luhaydan, member of the Grand Ulema Council and member of the Higher Judiciary Council.
8. Former Minister of State Shaykh Salih al-Husayn

It has been emphasized to the committee that it should complete the drafting of these statutes as early as possible and begin its meetings as of this announcement. The statutes will be submitted to his majesty the king as soon as the committee completes its study of them.

Meeting Held

LD231250 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 23 March--The higher committee for the completion of the drawing up of a basic system of government, a consultative council system and a system of provinces met at noon today at the royal cabinet under the chairmanship of its president, Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

The meeting was attended by the committee memb ers, who are: Minister of Justice Ibrahim ibn Muhammad Al-Wahhab 'Abd al-Wasi', Minister of State and member of the Cabinet Shaykh Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, chief of the complaints Bureau Shaykh Muhammad ibn Jubayr, member of the Grand Ulema Council Shaykh Salih al-Luhaydan, and Minister of State and former member of the Cabinet, Shaykh Salih al-Husayn.

COMMENTARY ATTACKS 'MAJOR POWERS' STAND ON SOVIET ACTION

LD212150 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Mar 80 LD

[Husayn al-Askari commentary]

[Text] Western sources say that Soviet forces in Afghanistan have resorted to the use of chemical weapons in their war against the Afghan mojahedin.

It is known that the resistence of the Afghan people to the Soviet occupation forces has been expanding and is most intense in the central part of the country. Because of intensified resistance against the invading Soviet forces, the Soviet command felt that all circumstances were against it. This led it to use the most devastating weapons--chemical weapons which proscribed by international law including poison gas and germs.

Although all the signs indicate that the Soviets have resorted to a war of extermination or scorched earth warfare, the international community still stands as a spectator while a whole nation is being exterminated, a nation of people whose only guilt is to refuse the foreign occupation of their country. The international community should go beyond the mere expression of sympathy with the Afghan people. It should take a stand which can save a people facing death at the hands of a major power employing all its machinery of destruction to defeat a people armed only with their Islamic faith and which refuses to coexist with apostacy.

The question of the Afghan people appears to have entered the arena of bargaining by the major powers, which move only in the direction best serving their self-interest. That is why observers note that instead of the powers concerned turning their attention to the question of the extermination of the Afghan people, they are marshalling their energy toward the boycott of the Moscow Olympic games. This has reassured the Soviets that their presence in Afghanistan depends on their own decisions. These in turn depend on how much they entrench communist rule in that country.

UAE

FATAH'S SALAH KHALAF ARRIVES ON VISIT 23 MAR

JN231648 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1635 GMT 23 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 March--Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, one of the Palestinian resistance leaders, arrived here from Doha this afternoon on a 1-day visit to the UAE as part of a tour of several countries in the area.

Abu Iyad stated that he will hold talks with state officials on latest developments in the Palestinian issue on the Arab and international arenas. He expressed the Palestinian revolution's appreciation of the UAE's positive role, under the leadership of UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, in backing and supporting the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people's rights.

Abu Iyad was received at the airport by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Jarwan, several Foreign Ministry officials and Ribhi 'Awad, head of the PLO office in the UAE.

Meets Shaykh Zayid

JN240940 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0915 GMT 24 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 March--UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan met here today with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad. After the meeting, Abu Iyad announced that he briefed His Highness Shaykh Zayid on the latest developments in the Palestine question on the Arab and international levels. He said that bilateral relations were discussed during the meeting.

CABINET APPROVES $4.26 BILLION BUDGET FOR 1980

JN241724 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 24 March--The UAE cabinet met today and approved the general budget for 1980 amounting to 15,972,916,000 dirhams, corresponding to $4,260,245,000.

At the session, chaired by UAE Vice President and Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Rashid ibn Sa'id al-Maktum, the cabinet also approved the federal national council budget, amounting to 3,000,800 dirhams and the Emirates University budget, amounting to 390,100,000 dihrams.

YAR

PDRY DEFENSE MINISTER DEPARTS AT END OF VISIT

JN222046 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Brother Col 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar, defense minister in the southern part of the homeland, left San'a' today at the end of a visit to the northern part of the homeland, during which he conveyed a verbal message to brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, from his brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, the leader of the southern part of the homeland.

While in San'a', Colonel 'Antar attended a celebration that was held at the military academy on the graduation of the 14th class.

In a predeparture statement, Colonel 'Antar told a SABA' NEWS AGENCY correspondent that his visit to San'a' enabled him to meet with the brother officials, especially with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih [words indistinct]. He said that they discussed topics dealing with further support for the joint efforts of officials in the two parts of the homeland and other affairs that concern our Yemeni people.

Colonel 'Antar expressed his happiness at attending the military academy celebration and said: The graduation of a new class from the military college is considered a great achievement, which will further support our armed forces in the two parts of the homeland. In conclusion, he said: [words indistinct] of the officials in the two parts of our homeland will eventually contribute to reaching the aspired goal of the one Yemeni people. Colonel 'Antar was seen off by Lt Col 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Barathi, chief of the army staff; the brother deputies of the chief of staff and high-ranking army officers.

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE BEGINS MEETINGS 24 MAR

JN241827 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Mar 80 JN

[Text] The joint economic committee of the two parts of the homeland began meetings in San'a' this morning. The northern side in the committee was led by minister of economy brother Muhammad Hizam ash-Shawshahi, while the southern side was headed by Minister of Labor and Civil Service brother Nasr Nasr 'Ali.

At the beginning of the meeting, brother Ash-Shawshahi welcomed the brother members of the southern part of the homeland delegation and called for serious work in serving the one Yemeni homeland. He also stressed the need to begin discussion of the items on the committee's agenda.

The head of the southern side in the committee thanked the members of the northern side for the warm welcome he and his delegation were accorded and for the existing sincere intention to achieve positive results during this session.

The brother minister of economy and the head of the northern side in the committee hosted a luncheon in honor of the southern side. The luncheon was attended by Lt Col Husayn ad-Daf'i, President Salih's adviser for unity affairs, and by ministers and other officials. The brother members of the southern side in the joint economic committee arrived in San'a' this morning.

SALIH: RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA BECOMING STRONGER

LD211457 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 21 Mar 80 pp 22-23 LD

[Farid al-Khatib report on visit to YAR and written interview with YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih--date not given]

[Excerpts] In Al-Hudaydah harbor on the Red Sea I saw Soviet military transports and ammunition boxes already unloaded on the first quay on the left side of the port. A few days later I saw huge transports carrying new Soviet T-55 tanks on the Al-Hudaydah road heading for the capital. In San'a' I stayed at the Dar al-Hamad Hotel. Staying at the same hotel were National Democratic Front leader Sultan Ahmad 'Umar, front command member Yahya ash-Shami and a 3-man Soviet economic delegation

One day, at 0900, the minister of information took me in his car to supreme military command headquarters, where I was scheduled to meet with the president. Inside the building there were strong guards--men wearing military and tribal uniforms. The president was not there and was not expected to come soon. We waited in a room adjacent to the president's office where the president's predecessor Ahmad al-Arshi was blown to pieces as he was preparing to embark on a unification trip to Aden.

Later on, the information minister handed me the president's answers which were typewritten on "presidential office" paper.

I said: [Farid al-Khatib is presumably presenting here the text of the written questions and answers he exchanged with President Salih] Will Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani be asked to form a new government after the national charter is approved? Will the national charter be put to a referendum by the people?

He answered: It is still early to talk about the formation of a post-national charter government, especially when you realize that we consider the charter a guide for sound comprehensive national action. It organizes all aspects of our political, economic, social and cultural life, defines the method for the exercise of public freedoms and regulates the government's powers and social relations.

AL-HAWADITH: Why have you postponed the general elections until the end of the current year? What measure are you now taking at the domestic and foreign levels to facilitate the legislative council elections?

President Salih: We have not deferred the date for free, direct general elections to the people's council. What has happened is that the Constituent People's Council, which is in charge of the preparations for these elections, has not yet completed the necessary and basic arrangements for holding free and direct general elections.

AL-HAWADITH: Since independence, relations between North Yemen and South Yemen have fluctuated between two extremes--war and enthusiasm for the attainment of unity. What were the obstacles that prevented the achievement of unity by the scheduled date last September? Do these obstacles include outside pressures? Have you overcome the need for Arab mediation to achieve unity? It is true that Aden has offered you the post of president in a united [Yemeni] state, provided [PDRY] Chairman 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il assumes the leadership of the national front on which the government in a united state is expected to be based?

Salih: There is no question of obstacles obstructing our serious efforts to achieve the reunification of Yemen because we and our brothers in the southern sector of the homeland are working to eliminate and surmount these obstacles. No date has ever been set for the declaration of unity because an important and fundamental issue such as reunification requires meticulous preparation and arrangement of all affairs and policies. However, we are trying to bring that great day nearer. Thank God, there are no obstacles standing in our way.

We will not need any Arab mediation during this phase. What made us resort to Arab mediation--and we are naturally an indivisble part of the Arab nation--was the unusual and hard circumstances our country was experiencing. We have overcome for good all the unusual and difficult circumstances. Proof of this is the direct dialog that is taking place between the sons of the two sectors at the level of the unity committees and ministerial and other officials.

Regarding the last part of your question, the question of Yemeni unity does not depend on presidential posts or persons because it concerns the people. The people in the north and the south are the ones who will determine the form of the united states and decide on the manner of achieving it through a united state constitution which will define the form of the state's presidency.

AL-HAWADITH: The Tripoli declaration issued by both sectors of Yemen in November 1972 stipulated that Islamic law will be the main source of legislation in the united states. Are you still committed to this stipulation?

Salih: Certainly. There is no question about it, because it stems from the core of the Yemeni people's religious ideology. Islamic law will be the source of legislation in the united state. This is agreed.

AL-HAWADITH: How do you view your role in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf area in the light of the conflict between the two superpowers overoil and the solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict? It is true that Saudi Arabia stopped giving you financial aid for a certain period, has not handed over seven F-5 planes to you because of your inclination toward the Soviet Union and is asking for a redemarcation of the borders between the two countries?

Salih: Regarding newspaper and magazine reports about the Yemen-Saudi relations, they are unfounded. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has not stopped giving us aid. Our relations with it are becoming stronger every day and we have an understanding on all matters of interest to our Arab people and nation.

STATEMENT OFFICIALLY WELCOMES FORMER SHAH

Statement on Arrival

NC241628 Cairo MENA in English 1618 GMT 24 Mar 80 NC

["Statement of Welcome"--MENA headline]

[Text] Cairo, March 24, (MENA)--The following statement was released today on the occasion of receiving the former shah of Iran.

Out of Egypt's civilized and human responsibility and in implementation of the teachings of the tolerant Islamic religion, which honoured man and necessitated that man be secure as for his life, and out of the sense of gratitude and faithfulness toward a man who stood by our people in its legitimate struggle for the liberation of lands and the regaining of right, a man who never hesitated to exert any effort in support of the just issues, it was natural that the people of Egypt express their faithfulness to those who stood by us in time of hardship, a matter which was reflected in the popular collective and unanimous will in compliance with what was announced by the legislative body: that the Arab Republic of Egypt agreed to host the former shah of Iran Mohamad Reza Pahlavi.

Egypt had adopted this decision out of humanitarian reasons which come before any other considerations as Egypt will always remain the secure and generous country for all those who want to stay in [it] regardless of any political implications, for Islam is but mercy, Islam is but civilisation, Islam is tolerance and humanity, and morals and genuine values reject spite and rancour.

Upon arrival here the former shah of Iran headed directly to Al-Ma'adi Hospital of the armed forces, where physicians will make medical tests and will decide on the suitable treatment to be given to him. May God cure the former Shah of Iran.

Condition is 'Reassuring'

NC241739 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 24 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 24 March--MENA has learned from a source close to the team of doctors treating the former shah of Iran, who arrived in Cairo today, that his condition is reassuring to some extent despite his serious illness.

The source adds that following the shah's medical examination, it was discovered that his condition does not call for great anxiety despite press and other media reports to the contrary.

The source said that the team of doctors attending the shah had not yet acquainted itself with any medical reports about the shah's previous tests.

No Report on Health

NC241935 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1925 GMT 24 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 24 March--Sources at the Al-Ma'adi Armed Forces Hospital say that no specific report has been made on the condition of Emperor Reza Pahlavi, the former shah of Iran. These sources say that the team of doctors treating the shah will make this report in light of the results of examinations made earlier in preparation for spleen surgery.

As-Sadat Visits Shah

NC251015 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 25 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 25 March--President Anwar as-Sadat has announced that the former shah of Iran has accepted the president's invitation to reside in Egypt permanently.

The president said: We have taken this attitude toward the former shah in accordance with the teachings of real Islam, not the Islam of Khomeyni.

The president added: I will not heed shouting. If anyone wants to shout, let him shout to the ends of the earth.

The president said: The shah is in the hands of our doctors; he is in good hands. Our doctors have contacted the shah's doctors abroad. Let those doctors abroad, who want to come to Egypt, do so. They will be welcome.

President As-Sadat made these statements this morning in the course of a visit which he made to the former shah in Al-Ma'adi Hospital, where the shah is receiving treatment.

Asked about the shah's health condition, the president said the shah is now ready for x-rays. He still suffers from high fever.

To a question about the date set for the shah's operation, he said: The doctors will determine this date. Our doctors have contacted the American and French doctors who have treated the shah--and some of them will arrive in Egypt. However, the date for their arrival has not yet been set.

The president said that the shah is now in the hands of the Egyptian doctors..and he is in good hands indeed.

The president was asked: You stated yesterday that the shah will stay in Egypt permanently. Has he accepted this?

The president said: Yes, and if he does not accept to stay, I will force him to do so.

Asked about the criticism which might be directed against him, President as-Sadat said: We are Muslims--and these are the real traditions of Islam, not the Islam preached by Khomeyni there [in Iran], which includes revenge, hatred and so on. This is the real Islam. The shah will stay with his family, among us here-among his friends and his brothers.

To a question about the shouting which this stance could raise in specific places, the president said: They can shout to the end of the earth--and I will absolutely not heed this shouting.

The president was asked whether this position might further complicate the problem of the American hostages held in Tehran. He said: You should address this question to President Carter. You must ask President Carter direct about anything to do with the United States.

The president was asked: Some Egyptian newspapers have reported that the Central Intelligence [agency] had concocted a plot to assassinate the shah in Panama. His excellency answered: I have read no such stories--and I deal only with facts.

The newsmen put questions to the president again as soon as he left the elevator on the first floor following his visit to the shah. The president repeated his statements.

Asked about the place of residence of the shah following his discharge from hospital, the president said: Anywhere in the country. There are many places; there are no special places for this purpose.

DELEGATES LEAVE FOR STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN TEL AVIV

NC230702 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 23 Mar 80 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 23 March--Ambassador 'Izzat 'Abd al-Latif and Ambassador Taha al-Majdub, the official in charge of the normalization of relations at the Foreign Ministry, left Cairo for Tel Aviv today to represent Egypt at the Steering Committee meetings to be held there today and tomorrow.

NINTH PLENARY SESSION OF AUTONOMY TALKS TO BEGIN 27 MAR

NC241510 Cairo MENA in English 1455 GMT 24 Mar 80 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, March 24, (MENA)--The ninth plenary session of the autonomy talks for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza is due to open in Alexandria next Thursday.

The two-day talks, scheduled formerly to open on Wednesday, was postponed to Thursday due to the delay of the Israeli delegation's arrival. Cairo received a cable from Israel that its delegation is due in Cairo Thursday morning.

U.S. envoy to the Middle East Sol Linowitz is due here on Tuesday from Israel to attend the ninth session.

GHALI BRIEFS BRITISH AMBASSADOR ON AUTONOMY TALKS

NC241750 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 24 March--Today, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali met with British Ambassador in Cairo Michael Weir. During the meeting, Ghali briefed the Ambassador on Middle East developments, particularly the talks on full autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza.

The ambassador briefed Ghali on Britain's efforts aimed at obtaining the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan and at making it a neutral state.

AL-BAZ INTERVIEWED ON COMING PALESTINIAN TALKS IN ALEXANDRIA

NC231405 Cairo MENA in English 1350 GMT 23 Mar 80 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, March 23, (MENA)--First Foreign Undersecretary Dr Usamah al-Baz asserted today Egypt's keenness as for realising the biggest possible progress during the new round of Palestinian autonomy negotiations, scheduled to open in Alexandria next Wednesday, so as each party would shoulder its responsibility according to commitments made in Camp David.

In an interview with MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY, Al-Baz added that this round of talks is of special importance as it comes after the Hague talks in which views on the main issues of differences have been reviewed. The Wednesday round of talks comes also before the Washington talks by President Carter and each ofpresident As-Sadat and Prime Minister Menahem Begin early next month. "That is why we are most keen as for scoring the biggest progress during this round of talks", he said.

Al-Baz went on to say that it is time that we should put "the conception of Israeli security in its exact framework and that it should be clear that security is not only for Israel, but also for all other parties."

Al-Baz hoped that the meeting by President As-Sadat and President Carter and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin would result in the issurance of definite instructions to the negotiators, in line with the peace framework signed in Camp David, so as negotiations would not go into a vicious circle.

CAIRO REPORTS DEPARTURE OF ISRAEL'S TZIPORI

NC211212 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo this morning after a 5-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

During his visit, Tzipori visited archeological sites in Luxor, Aswan, Cairo and Alexandria as well as the Electronics Manufacturing Company, the Society of Hope and Faith and the Children's Village.

SIERRA LEONE FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES CAIRO

NC211253 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1232 GMT 21 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 21 March--Sierra Leone Foreign Minister Abdulai Conteh left Cairo for home today following a 2-day visit to Egypt during which he handed a private message from Sierra Leone President Siaka P. Stevens to President As-Sadat. He was seen off at the airport by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali and Sierra Leone Ambassador in Cairo Haroun Oluwole Zubairu.

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL'S STATEMENT ON FIGHTING IN CHAD

NC222022 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Mar 80 NC

[Text] A Foreign Ministry official spokesman has stated that Egypt is extremely worried about reports of renewed disturbances in Chad after the national forces had managed, thanks to the sincere African efforts, to transcend their differences and agree to work together in order to build the Chadian homeland within the framework ofa government of national unity

The official spokesman asserted that the collapse of national unity would again expose the country to the dangers of a civil war, thus adding to the sufferings of thepeople and providing oppurtunities for suspect external forces to attempt to realize their aims, which run counter to the true aims of the Chadian people. Therefore, we appeal to all Chadian parties to adhere to national unity and national awareness and to peacefully settle their differences through a dialog and refrain from adopting stands and measures which would expose the country's independence and territorial integrity to enormous dangers, open the way for conspiracies and ambitions and threaten stability throughout the African Continent.

CUBAN MINISTER LEVI FARAH ARRIVES 22 MAR

JN230809 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 23 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 23 March--Levi Farah, Cuban minister without portfolio and chairman of the construction committee, arrived here last night on a visit of several days to Iraq. The Cuban minister said that he will hold talks with the Iraqi minister of public works and housing on ways to strengthen bilateral relations in the field of construction. The Cuban official is accompanied by a delegation which comprises a number of experts of the construction committee.

Meets Deputy Premier Ramadan

JN231432 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 23 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 23 March--Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, met today with Levi Farah, Cuban minister president of the State Committee for Construction, who is currently visiting Iraq. During the meeting, Ramadan affirmed Iraq's strong desire to boost bilateral cooperative relations in all fields. He said constructive cooperation between the two countries is crucial, particularly at this stage, in serving the common interests of the nonalined group and of mankind.

The first deputy prime minister and the Cuban minister discussed bilateral relations and cooperation in the fields of housing, roads, building and construction.

Earlier today, the Cuban minister and the delegation accompanying him met with RCC member and Oil Minister T yih 'Abd al-Karim. The two ministers discussed joint cooperation and prospects of Cuba's contribution to the implementation of several projects for Oil Ministry establishments.

Meets Housing Minister

JN231958 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Muhammad Fadil, minister of public works and housing, met today with Levi Farah, Cuban minister president of the State Committee for Construction, and his accompanying delegation. Talks during the meeting centered on the relations of cooperation between the two friendly countries and on means of promoting them, particularly in the fields of roads, bridges and housing. The Cuban minister praised Iraqi achievements in all fields and the relations of friendship and cooperation between Iraq and Cuba.

FRENCH ENVOY ARRIVES IN IRAQ WITH MESSAGE FOR SADDAM HUSAYN

JN221959 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 22 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 22 March--French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing's personal envoy to President Saddam Husayn arrived here tonight. The French envoy, Mr (Boudivier), head of the North Africa and Near East Department at the French Foreign Ministry, said he is carrying a written message from French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing to President Saddam Husayn, dealing with bilateral relations and issues of joint interest.

Meets President

JN231332 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Mar 80 JN

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing on the outcome of the French president's recent tour of a part of the Arab homeland. The message also deals with the exchange of views on a number of bilateral and international issues.

The message was delivered to the president by President Valery Giscard d'Estaing's personal envoy (Boudivier), head of the North Africa and Near East Department at the French Foreign Ministry, when he was received by the president in his office at the presidential palace at noon today. The meeting was attended by Mundhir 'Uraym, the Foreign Ministry under secretary, and the French charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

BA'TH OFFICIAL MEETS SOUTH YEMEN OPPOSITION LEADERS

JN231816 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Ba'th Party National Command member Comrade Dr Qasim Sallam met in the National Command building this afternoon with a delegation of the 26 June unionist organization forces of martyr President Salim Rubayi' 'Ali, headed by organization Secretary General Ahmad Husayn (?al-'Aqqad), and a delegation from the Yemeni resistance movement in southern Yemen, led by Muhammad as-Sabbagh.

In a statement to INA at the end of the meeting, Comrade Dr Qasim Sallam said that the discussion dealt with ways of unifying the opposition in the southern part of Yemen, in accordance with a scientific program that embodies the aspirations of our people in the southern part of Yemen for liberation from political, social and ideological injustice, and for the attainment of their national unity and free will, far from the oppression and terror imposed upon them since 30 November 1967.

Dr Sallam added that the representatives of the two organizations and the national personalities that adhere to the national and pan-Arab course expressed a sincere and deep response to the unification of all the groups in confronting terrorism and repulsing foreign presence, which constitutes an actual protection for this terrorism in the southern part of Yemen.

Comrade Dr Qasim Sallam pointed out that the representatives of the two organizations affirmed that President Sadam Husayn's national declaration is a revolutionary paty and an introduction to the unification of the Yemeni people's national and pan-Arab will in the southern part of Yemen.

Further Report

JN242032 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2015 GMT 24 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 24 March--Ba'th Party National Command member Qasim Sallam met here this evening with a delegation from the unity front in southern Yemen, headed by 'Abdallah al-Haythami. Discussion during the meeting focused on the importance of unity among the various groups opposing the current regime in southern Yemen and on the need to liberate its masses from the nightmare imposed upon them. The Yemeni delegation affirmed its support for President Saddam Husayn's national charter, a revolutionary action program to confront foreign intervention and safeguard the Arab nation's independence and dignity.

STATE MINISTER 'ALWAN LEAVES FOR TUNIS 23 MAR

JN231019 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0955 GMT 23 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 23 March--Iraqi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hamid 'Alwan left Baghdad for Tunis this morning to attend the meetings of the ordinary session of the Arab League Council scheduled to begin there this evening. 'Alwan said that the council will discuss the current Arab situation, issues relating to the development of Arab relations and ways to strengthen the joint Arab action march.

The state minister added that during the meetings, Iraq will submit proposals concerning followup efforts to implement the Baghdad and Tunis summit resolutions, as well as the resolutions of the conference of Arab economy and foreign ministers held last year. Special concern will be voiced over the Arab position on the Zionist-As-Sadat treason agreement.

NA'IM HADDAD PINPOINTS NATIONAL CHARTER'S OBJECTIVES

JN221133 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 22 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 22 March--Ba'th Party National Command member Na'im Haddad has stated that the Arab masses are rallying around the national declaration proposed by President Saddam Husayn on 8 March. In a statement broadcast over Baghdad radio this morning, Haddad said that the Arab progressive forces have reiterated their absolute support for the national charter's provisions based on an impartial and independent pan-Arab course serving the Arab nation's interests and rejecting the hegemony of the imperialist states and superpowers.

Haddad said that the Arab masses, who will meet during the pan-Arab people's conference in Baghdad next Tuesday, will draw up the strategic line necessary to confront the Arab nation's enemies. This conference will undoubtedly crown the masses' struggle with success, he added.

Haddad asserted that President Saddam Husayn's national declaration is aimed at confronting the dangers and challenges to which the Arab nation is exposed. He said that the national declaration's objectives and provisions are in line with the Arab nation's interests and the Arab struggle to thwart the imperialist-Zionist designs, liberate the Arab homeland from any foreign presence and place the Arab nation on the threshold of progress and prosperity.

He said that the Arab nation is asked to deply all the human, economic and military resources in order to achieve an Arab society far from all the hostile military alliances and from the superpowers' conflicts.

Na'im Haddad stressed the need to expel foreigners from the Arab land and prevent hostile foreign fleets from roaming the Arab territorial waters. He said: The Arab homeland is rich with huge resources. However, our Arab people in some fraternal countries are exposed to inhuman conditions due to their weak economies. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the countries which possess huge economic capabilities to support the poor Arab countries in order to prevent colonialism from exploiting this opportunity under the pretext of aid.

KING HUSAYN MEETS WITH ALGERIA'S BENDJEDID 24 MAR

JN241848 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn and President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and general secretary of the FLN Party, led the Jordanian and Algerian sides at talks that were held at the royal Hashemite court this afternoon. During these talks, a comprehensive review of the current Arab and international situation, developments relating to the Palestinian issue and the Arab stand in all of its aspects was conducted.

The two sides affirmed their determination to bolster Arab solidarity and work to mobilize Arab potentials in the service of the higher Arab interest. The Jordanian and Algerian sides agreed on the need to bolster steadfastness in the occupied Arab territories. They also affirmed their concern over strengthening relations between the two fraternal states in all fields.

An official Jordanian source stated that an atmosphere of fraternity, trust and complete understanding prevailed during the talks and that the Jordanian and Algerian viewpoints on the issues discussed were identical.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf; Chief of the Royal Hashemite Court Ahmad al-Lawzi; Court Minister 'Amir Khammash; Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Staff Lt Gen Ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir; and Minister of State Hasan Ibrahim.

The talks were attended on the Algerian side by Mohamed Saleh Yahiaoui, Political Bureau member and FLN Party coordinator; Mohamed Ben Yahia, Political Bureau member and minister of foreign affairs; Col 'Abdallah Belhouchet, Political Bureau member and inspector general of the People's National Army; Mohamed Amir, Political Bureau member and chairman of the party committee for social affairs; and Algerian ambassador in Amman Ahmed Laili.

KING HUSAYN TELEPHONES IRAQI PRESIDENT

JN250655 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Mar 80 p 1 JN

[Report by Hashim Khuryasat]

[Text] Baghdad--AR-RA'Y has learned that His Excellency President Saddam Husayn contacted His Majesty King Husayn by telephone last night. During the telephone conversation, the two leaders exchanged views on the current developments in the Arab area and the relations between the two countries.

MEDIA PROVIDE FEW REPORTS ON DOMESTIC UNREST

JN230943 [Editorial Report JN] Syrian media continue to maintain almost complete silence on political violence in the country. Reports--mainly originating from the Phalangist clandestine Voice of Lebanon and Jerusalem Domestic Service--on clashes in Aleppo between Muslim Brotherhood members and members of Syrian security and Syrian troop movements there; anti-government riots in Syrian provinces, especially Aleppo, Dayr az-Zawr and Idlib; and the distribution of leaflets in Damascus about an imminent public uprising have not been confirmed by monitored Syrian sources. However, Damascus Radio has reported the murder of two Soviet experts in Hamah in January and a religious figure in Aleppo, blaming the Muslim Brotherhood for both incidents. The radio also reported the arrest of a Muslim Brotherhood leader in Damascus said to be "the chief architect of the attempts to destroy a number of economic installations in Damascus." The same report said that the authorities are pursuing other criminals for "committing crimes of armed robbery, murder and savage acts."

There has been a recent series of speeches by President Hafiz al-Asad at special meetings of Syrian popular organizations and trade unions in which he accused the United States and the CIA of causing internal unrest in Syria to weaken its role as the major country in the Arab confrontation with Israel; the resolutions adopted by all these organizations calling on their members to form "armed squads" to defend the country and the revolution against the "imperialist-Zionist-reactionary onslaught"; and the press statements made by senior government officials. The internal unrest is also reflected in the reported visits by Ba'th Party representatives to some of the reported trouble spots--the mission to Aleppo was headed by party assistant secretary General 'Abdallah al-Ahmar--and the appointment of new governors in those provinces which were said to have been the scenes of recent disturbances, significantly, Aleppo, Dayr az-Zawr, Idlib and Dar'a.

In these speeches and statements, President Hafiz al-Asad and other Syrian Government officials appear to admit that the current unrest is not confined to one area but is rather widespread, that other "foreign agents" are involved beside "some" factions of the Muslim Brotherhood organization, that the "onslaught" is fomented by "U.S. and Israeli intelligence" and the "Phalangists in Lebanon," and that firm action is being taken, possibly including armed force, to end the anomalous situation.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti paper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM, broadcast over Damascus Radio on 9 March, President al-Asad said: "We have in Syria a group originating from the Muslim Brotherhood organization. This group carried out a number of assassinations. Some persons sent from outside Syria cooperate with it. These persons commit various propaganda acts, disseminate misleading slogans and try to implicate some factions of the Muslim Brotherhood organization." He added: "I said several assassinations were perpetrated in our country and there are a number of armed people who are being chased by the competent authorities. Of course, we have proof that there is contact and cooperation between the armed people in Syria and some factions in Lebanon. I do not think it is useful to elaborate on this matter now. But I affirm that we have documents, weapons and people."

In an interview with the Paris-based Arabic weekly AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI, broadcast over Damascus Radio on 15 March, Prime Minister Ra'uf al-Kasm said: "Our problem is not only with those who styled themselves as the Muslim Brotherhood. The problem is political. They do not want this country to develop, to proceed forward and to be steadfast. The problem is with Israel and the United States. They are trying to use all their cards and all their allies inside and outside the country." He added: "Investigations show that there are groups from different nationalities and of various political trends. This will be revealed very soon."

In an interview with the Lebanese newspaper ASH-SHARQ, broadcast over Damascus Radio on 5 March, Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad said: "The Muslim Brotherhood gang, which wants to weaken the Syrian internal situation, kill the innocent and destroy economic installations, is clearly linked with Israel and the United States.... There is close cooperation among Israeli intelligence, the Phalangists and the Muslim Brotherhood gang." He added: "You know as well as anyone that the Israeli and Phalangist party information media are at the disposal of the Muslim Brotherhood and their spiteful acts of instigating riots in Syria."

In an interview with THE TIMES of London published on 21 March, Syrian Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad said: "The people who have tried to instigate trouble, represent the Muslim Brotherhood and the remaining feudalists--those who owned lands but were included in the agrarian reforms at the beginning of 1963--together with Syrian capitalists who were affected by the nationalization laws." Asked if he could name other nations said to be supporting the Muslim Brotherhood, the minister said: "Those enemies represented by the Muslim Brotherhood and the feudalists are receiving financial support as well as arms and training from some parties which are linked with the United States. Some of the results of our investigations will be announced but in such a way that it will not harm Syria's relations with these countries." The minister declined to name these countries.

In a speech reported by Damascus Radio on 11 March, President al-Asad said: "The United States is the arch-enemy of our people and Arab nation. What we are facing today was planned by U.S. intelligence. It is the United States that is sending agents against us and providing them with what they want. It is the United States that is guiding the activities of these agents from centers not far from our country."

On the other hand, in a speech broadcast over Damascus Radio on 8 March, President al-Asad stressed Syria's close links with the Soviet Union. He said: "I must stress that we continue to consolidate the ties of friendship and cooperation with our friends the socialist block countries, headed by the USSR. I would like to emphasize that the imperialists and colonialists should not hope, rather, they should not be under any allusion that they can shake the mutual confidence between us and our friends. I frankly and truly say that the Soviet Union is the real friend of all peoples fighting for their freedom and independence.... Our people know what it means to have the Soviet Union as a sincere friend."

In President al-Asad's speech broadcast over Damascus Radio on 9 March, the president said: "Brothers, this country belongs to all of us. Those who commit the crimes are the enemies of the country and the people. We will give the murderers ample opportunity to desist from their crimes; but, after that, we will have to settle our accounts with them. They must understand the gravity of what they are doing and desist. There is not much time left. I would like to emphasize here that our decision as a leadership is to be decisive with the murderers, the enemies of the revolution, Arabism and Islam." "That is why I said that if these people do not desist, then the government will have to take action in the interest of every citizen in Aleppo and elsewhere."

NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE FRONT HOLDS SPEECH RALLY 21 MAR

JN212030 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 21 Mar 80 JN

[Excerpts] The National Progressive Front Damascus branch held a speech rally this afternoon at Ibn al-'Amid school in the Rukn ad-Din quarter to explain the goals of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary onslaught on Arab Syria, which is steadfast in the face of all plots, and to outline the masses' role in countering this onslaught.

The rally was attended by comrades secretary and members of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Damascus branch command, members of the National Progressive Front branch command, members of the Al-Mazra'a Party branch command and huge masses of the Rukn ad-Din quarter's inhabitants.

Speakers denounced and condemned the terrorist actions carried out by the gangs of murder, crime and sabotage which are aimed against our country's steadfastness vis-a-vis all capitulatory and imperialist plots which try to undermine our national unity. Speakers praised Syria's bold stand under President Hafiz al-Asad in the face of the plots launched by the Camp David parties and the sabotage actions of the treacherous and faithless gangs.

Speakers urged the Arab masses to stand by the side of revolutionary Syria and to support its steadfastness in the face of the plot which is aimed at weakening Syria's strength and allowing the imperialist-Zionist plan to succeed. Speakers stressed that this reactionary-imperialist onslaught is not aimed against Syria alone, but against the entire Arab nation as well. Therefore, the steadfastness of Syria means the steadfastness of the Arab nation.

Speakers also underlined the fact that Syria will not yield to imperialist-Zionist-reactionary powers but will continue to be a stronghold in the face of all plots which aim at humiliating our country, entrenching the capitulatory settlements and liquidating the Palestine question.

Speakers called on the citizens of our country to further strengthen their ranks and to deepen their solidarity and cooperation so that Syria can continue to be a steadfast edifice.

Participants in the rally sent a cable to president of the republic, Hafiz al-Asad, in which they stressed that the masses in Damascus and those of the Arab nation support the firm stand against the gangs of murder and sabotage. They also reconfirmed that the Syrian Arab people will continue to rally around President al-Asad's leadership in one strong impenetrable front vis-a-vis the designs of colonialism, Zionism and reaction. The masses vowed to sacrifice until the achievement of our nation's goals in victory and liberation.

ALGERIA

ALGERIAN-GAMBIAN JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED

LD212214 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Mar 80 LD

[Excerpts] A joint Algerian-Gambian statement has been issued on the visit to Algeria by Gambian President Dawda Kairaba Jawara. Following is the text of the statement:

At the invitation of brother Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Popular and Democratic Republic of Algeria and secretary general of the FLN, President Dawda Kairaba Jawara of Gambia paid a state visit to Algeria from 16-20 March 1980.

During his stay in Algeria, the Gambian president and the accompanying delegation inspected the accomplishments in the fields of industry, agriculture and technology. They also witnessed the efforts exerted by Algeria to boster its independence in all fields. The two sides also held talks.

The talks were held in an atmosphere of true friendship and complete understanding. They enabled the two presidents to acquaint each other with the economic, social and cultural development of their countries, to review cooperation between them and exchange views on the international situation.

The two sides signed an agreement on cooperation in the economic, scientific, technological and cultural fields and adopted important resolutions on establishing a dynamic cooperation between the two countries in all fields, and on promoting trade exchange.

Reviewing the international situation, particularly in Africa, the two presidents expressed their concern over the continuing world tension and the dangers which threaten world peace and security. The two presidents paid special attention to the situation in Africa and denounced the plans of imperialism and its allies who are working to consolidate a policy of domination and exploitation of the African peoples, obstructing their development and preventing them from establishing solidarity and cooperation between all the countries of the continent.

On the situation in the southern part of the African Continent, the two presidents greeted the victory of the patriotic front in Zimbabwe as a direct result of the heroic struggle of the Zimbabwe people. They reiterated their support for the Zimbabwe people's efforts to consolidate their independence once and for all. The two presidents affirmed their two countries' solidarity with and absolute support for the struggle of the peoples of southern Africa against imperialism, colonialism and apartheid.

On Namibia, the two presidents stressed the need to implement the international resolutins on Namibia so that this country may attain its independence. They also reiterated their absolute support for SWAPO, the sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people.

The two presidents strongly condemned the inhuman policy of apartheid, and expressed their firm support for the people of South Africa who are struggling for their freedom and recognition of their basic national rights.

On the situation in West Sahara, the two presidents expressed their concern over the tension prevailing in the area. They expressed their support for the people of West Sahara and their right to self-determination. They also stressed the urgent need to implement the United Nations' resolutions and the resolutions of the Organization of African Unity, in this respect.

The two presidents praised the peace agreement concluded between the Mauritanian Islamic republic and the POLISARIO Front considering it a significant step toward easing tension in the area. They also expressed their satisfaction with the work of the OAU special committee on West Sahara and expressed support for its recommendations. In this respect, the Gambian president expressed his hope that new intiaiatives would be taken to help find a just and durable solution to the West Saharan problem.

The two presidents reiterated their adherence to the OAU which they consider to be an effective instrument for bolstering and completing the political and economic independence of African countries and for creating an atmosphere of peace and security favorable to the continent's development within a harmonious framework consistent with their peoples' aspirations for progress and prosperity.

On the Middle East, the two presidents expressed their concern over the gravity of the situation, particularly following the signing of the Camp David agreements. They reiterated their conviction that peace and security in the area cannot be achieved without establishing the national legitimate rights of the Palestine people, including their right to set up their own sovereign and independent state, and without the return of all the occupied territories including Jerusalem. They stressed the need for the participation of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestine people, on an equal basis in the efforts to find a solution for the Middle East problem.

While recording their satisfaction with the development of the nonalinement movement in the international field, the two presidents reaffirmed their firm adherence to the principles and objectives of nonalinement. They affirmed their belief in the movement's ability to achieve the peoples' aspirations for peace, independence, mustice and the establishment of a new international economic system based on equality among states and full control of their natural resources.

In this regard, the two presidents believe the solidarity of the nonalined countries and their coordinated work constitutes an important factor in bringing about decisive changes in the positions of the advanced countries and makes for improved cooperation among the developing countries for the sake of preserving their collective independence.

The two presidents praised the OAU resolution which provides for holding an emergency summit conference in April devoted to economic matters. They believe it will insure better coordination of African efforts in the development and establishment of new relations of solidarity and integration.

President Dawda Kairaba Jawara invited President Chadli Bendjedid to visit Gambia. The invitation was accepted with pleasure and the date of the visit will be fixed later.

LIBYA

IRAN'S KHALKHALI ARRIVES ON VISIT

LD242216 Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Ayatollah Khalkhali, one of the leaders of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and president of the Iranian revolutionary courts, arrived in Tripoli this evening at the head of an Iranian popular delegation on a visit of several days to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

At Tripoli International Airport, Khalkhali and his delegation were met by Ali Bilkhayr, secretary of the affairs of congresses at the Secretariat of the General People's Congress and by some members of the foreign liaison bureau of the Secretariat of the General People's Congress.

CHAD SITUATION DISCUSSED WITH NIGER DELEGATION

LD242228 Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD

[Text] A spokesman at the Foreign Secretariat said that the Libyan Arab and Niger delegations held talks on the occasion of the visit of President Seyni Kountche to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and reviewed the situation in Chad. They expressed their concern over this grave development in the internal situation in the Republic of Chad and agreed that the situation reached this stage because the Lagos agreement for national reconciliation has not been implemented.

They stressed that their great interest in this deteriorating situation stems from their concern, in their capacity as states neighboring Chad and as members of the Lagos conference for national reconciliation, for peace and stability to prevail in that country. Proceeding from this concern, the two sides called for an immediate cease-fire and a halt to the bloodshed now taking place in Chad. They agreed on the need to call for the urgent convening of a new conference for national reconciliation in Chad.

In this connection the two sides affirmed their adherence to the Lagos agreement for national reconciliation asa framework for finding an African solution to an African problem without foreign interference. They agreed that imperialist interference constitutues the only obstacle to solving the problem and preventing the establishment of peace and stability in Chad. This was underlined by all parties concerned in the agreement signed in Lagos on 23 August 1979 regarding national reconcialiation in Chad.

Niger President's Statement

LD241406 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD

[Excerpt] Niger President Seyni Kountche and members of his delegation left Tripoli this morning at the end of his 3-day cordial visit to the Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to a JANA correspondent on his departure he said: During the visit, we had very fruitful talks on the close relations and bilateral agreements. We always reviewed the situation in the Arab region and the African Continent, as well as the international issues.

He said of the situation in Chad: We have affirmed the need for stability and peace in Chad. In this respect, we have invited our brothers in Chad to stop the fighting. He pointed out that Libya and Niger, as two countries neighboring Chad and as members of the Chad peace committee, have worked to bring about the signing of national peace agreements in Chad and called on the disputing parties to respect the Lagos national peace agreements.

President Kountche added that it has been agreed to convene an urgent meeting to discuss ending the fighting in Chad. He said Chad was an African country and its problems must therefore be solved by the Africans themselves. The African countries must show interest in Chad's problems and should help the Chadians to find a peaceful solution away from international maneuvers and plots hatched against Chad, its security and stability.

Departure of President

LD241054 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0950 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 24 March--President Seyni Kountche of the Niger Republic, left Tripoli this morning at the end of his 3-day cordial visit to the Jamahiriyah. He was seen off by Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, brother members of the general popular committee and heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions in Libya.

TRIPOLI REPORTS LEBANESE DISCUSSION OF AIR SUPPORT OFFER

LD241340 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Col Fu'ad Lahhud, chairman of the Lebanese Parliament's Defense and Security Committee, said his meeting with Lebanese Prime Minister Salim al-Huss at noon today centered on the Libyan offer to provide an air cover for Lebanon. It is recalled that the Libyan offer was made during Colonel Lahhud's recent visit to the Jamahiriyah and is intended to assist Lebanon in the face of repeated Zionist-isolationist attacks on Lebanese territory.

OAU SECRETARY GENERAL ENDS VISIT

LD241404 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Adam Kodjo, OAU secretary general, left Tripoli this morning at the end of a 4-day visit to the Jamahiriyah during which he held talks on some African issues and cooperation between the OAU and the Jamahiriyah.

JANA EDITOR SAYS EGYPT CAMOUFLAGING NEW AGGRESSION

LD241346 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The JANA political editor has commented on recent statements by Lt Gen Ahmad Badawi, chief of staff of the defeated president's forces. He said the Libyans are right to inquire about the motvies behind these statements, particularly as they follow the provocative Egyptian military maneuvers which were staged at the Libyan border within the past few days and which were attended by Lieutenant General Badawi himself.

The political editor added that the statements also come in the wake of the Egyptian authorities' decision to transfer Egyptian forces from the Suez Canal area to the border with Libya. The Israelis greatly welcomed this decision.

The JANA editor added that this provides proof that the American arms which are being stockpiled by the regime of the defeated Egyptian president are intended for fighting the progressive revolutions in the Arab region and Africa and that a Great 1 September revolution, being the revolution most hostile to capitulation and imperialism, is a direct objective and target of these stockpiled arms in the arsenal of the regime of the defeated Egyptian president. This in turn points to a new aggressive action which the defeated Egyptian regime is camouflaging by such statements and which it plans to carry out on instigation of imperialism and Zionism.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI INTERVIEWED ON ARAB, GULF SITUATION

LD211401 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 19 Mar 80 p 5 LD

[Sundanese President Ja'far Numayri interview given to "Abd al-Mun'im 'Uthman in Abu Dhabi--date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: What is the purpose of your current visit to the UAE and what does its timing indicate?

Answer: The continuing consultation and coordination between Sudan and the UAE call for constant contacts at various levels and by various means in order to unify the stands and mobilize the resources and efforts of the two sisterly states vis-a-vis the developments in the Arab cause and changes taking place in the area as well as the international issues affecting us.

Since the present stage is especially dangerous and critical, it was necessary that I should meet with my brother His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn Sultan and UAE officials in order to exchange views and coordinate our stands in the face of the dangers threatening our Arab and Islamic nation.

Question: How do you view the present Arab situation, particularly with regard to the Arab problem?

Answer: I disagree with the many people who view the Arab situation with pessimism. Despite the stalemate that our fateful cause faced for some time, particularly following the signing of the Camp David agreements, Arab unanimity and the Palestinian struggle have been able to overcome this temporary stalemate. There is more than one piece of evidence of this: There is the Arab unanimity which was confirmed in the Arab summit resolutions.

There is the complete change in the Western European countries' stand, which has come considerably closer to understanding and supporting Arab rights.

There is the new international view of the Palestinian people's cause and their right to self-determination. This view crystallized during President Giscard d'Estaing's recent visit to the Gulf region and the Saudi Arabian kingdom. The visit has confirmed the recognition of the PLO by some of the West European countries.

Most important of all is the Arab resistance to attempts to factionalize the cause and to enter into separate deals concerning it as well as the insistence on establishing a Palestinian state and confirming the Arab nature of Jerusalem.

Therefore, we are progressing toward our goals and all we need is to display further solidarity and coordination, unify efforts, mobilize resources and direct them toward serving our goals. This is what Sudan has urged and will continue to urge. I have already declared that Sudan is in the process of laying down a unified strategic Arab plan encompassing the Arab nation's efforts and defining in this context the role of every Arab country, each according to its capabilities, in the political, military and economic fields. The fulfillment of such role is obligatory in restoring our nation's legitimate rights and backing the Palestinian Arab people.

Fortunately, sisterly Iraq has proposed a national action charter to unify the Arab ranks and Arab resources in the service of the national cause. We have welcomed this charter, as did the sisterly Arab states, in the belief that the road to victory will remain blocked as long as we are divided, that the achievement of goals is impossible without unifying efforts and that individual stands, however justifiable, must give way to a unified Arab stand in the face of a common enemy occupying our land, usurping our nation's rights and constituting a danger to our present and future.

At the first Arab summit meeting Sudan will submit the unified Arab strategy with the aim of crystallizing it and committing the sisterly Arab states to it.

Question: How does the president view the signs of danger threatening the Gulf, particularly in the light of developments in Iran and Afghanistan?

Answer: There is no doubt that there is a conflict between the two superpowers over this area motivated by the superpowers' ambitions and interests regardless of the dangers this conflict poses to the area as well as to the interests of the world countries that care for stability in the oil production areas. In my view an appropriate stabilizing role in the present conditions can be played by Western Europe because of the importance of stability in the area to these countries.

In Sudan we deplore any attempt by the two superpowers to win over to their side any countries in the area. We are against the establishment of foreign bases in Somali, Oman and Aden. We also object to the granting of what have been called "facilities in Egypt." We believe that the neutrality of the area as a whole, particularly the Red Sea and its approaches, is a safeguard both for the peoples of the area and for world interests. In fact we called for such neutrality 3 years ago. Indeed we called for a conference for this purpose which was actually held in Ta'izz, in the YAR, and was attended by some of the Red Sea countries. Although our effort then may not have succeeded as desired, we have drawn attention to the danger and have taken action to resist it.

Question: What is Sudan's attitude toward the narmalization of Egyptian-Israeli relations?

Answer: Sudan was the first to condemn and deplore this step by Egypt. The political organization [Sudanese Socialist Union]--and the Sudanese Foreign Ministry have issued statements to this effect. This is because we believe that Egypt's natural place is with the Arab nation as long as the nation's enemy is still occupying Arab territories. Egypt's security cannot be separated from the Arab nation's security. In fact Egypt's sovereignty cannot be complete as long as there is one inch of Arab land under Israeli occupation.

Question: What about the recent rumors about an initiative to improve Sudanese-Iraqi relations?

Answer: Sudan's Arab affiliation makes it incumbent upon it to regard any Arab disagreement as temporary and transient. Therefore, disagreement among brothers is like a summer cloud that cannot last. What links us to the Arab nation is religion, language, a common destiny and a common objective. Everything else is transient and foreign. For this reason we have responded to brother President Saddam Husayn's kind gesture toward Sudan when he sent an envoy representing him to discuss the national action charter. We not only welcomed the charter but also supported it. We have affirmed to him our desire to settle the transient disagreement between Sudan and Iraq. A senior Sudanese official will shortly arrive in the Iraqi capital carrying a message from me to brother President Saddam Husayn. In any case, I consider the file of Sudanese-Iraqi disagreement closed, thank God.

Question: What about developments in Sudanese-Ethiopian relations following your first vice president's visit to Addis Ababa?

Answer: Sudan's declared policy is commited to good-neighborly relations with the sisterly African states. The first vice president's visit was not the first initiative on our part or Ethiopia's. It was preceded by contacts and visits at various levels exchanged between Khartoum and Addis Ababa. The first vice president's visit was successful and the Ethiopian president will shortly pay a visit to Sudan. All this confirms that there is a genuine relaxation in Sudanese-Ethiopian relations and that relations between the two countries are reverting to normal.

FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUES STATEMENT ON ARAB LEAGUE ANNIVERSARY

JN211737 Khartoum SUNA in English 1725 GMT 21 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Khartoum, March 21 SUNA--Sudan stressed yesterday the necessity of joint Arab action through the Arab League as the only channel to the achievement of Arab goals, the liberation of occupied terrorities and the restoration of the rights of the Palestinian people.

In a statement on the 35th anniversary of the foundation of the Arab League, the Foreign Ministry said the present conditions and circumstances engulfing the Arab nations demand firm solidarity and the implementation of a common well-formed strategy.

The statement called all Arab countries to rally behind the Arab League and praised its achievements.

It further noted Sudan's long standing appeal for the promotion of the league's performance and the modification of its charter to cope with the present challenges.

AMBASSADOR LINOWITZ CONTINUES TALKS ON SETTLEMENTS

Israeli Concessions Seen

TA250623 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 25 Mar 80 TA

[Text] This morning Ambassador Linowitz' round of talks in Israel ends. The Ministerial Committee for the Autonomy Negotiations, headed by the prime minister, will discuss the replies to be given to Sol Linowitz' advice on this issue. Linowitz' main proposal is that Israel should agree to discuss its security objectives in the territories in the framework of a joint security committee with Egypt. Linowitz and the prime minister have preserved complete silence over the last 2 days with regard to their talks, but our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned some details of these talks:

Linowitz is proposing the establishment of a security committee. This body will be headed by the defense and security ministers of Israel and Egypt. The committee will deal with defining Israel's security objectives in the territory of the autonomy that is to be established in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip.

According to the Camp David agreements, the IDF forces in the territories will retreat from the population centers and redeploy when the autonomy is established. During the negotiations the prime minister objected to the view that the IDF deployment should be decided upon with the agreement of the sides, who will negotiate over the establishment of the autonomy; in other words, the agreement of Egypt and the United States. Israel, not others, will define its own security needs; this was stated by the Israeli side during last year's talks. But the Egyptians repeated, over and over again, their demand to discuss all the arrangements in the territories with the establishment of the autonomy, including security affairs.

It appears that this time Linowitz succeeded in persuading his interlocutors, the prime minister and Minister Burg, of the need to find a compromise on this matter. The Ministerial Committee for the Negotiations is meeting this morning to discuss this question and the answers to be given to the U.S. ambassador. According to one source, Linotwitz also suggested to the prime minister that Israel should not establish settlements until 26 May, which is the target date for the end of the negotiations. It appears that the prime minister rejected this request out of hand. As for the talks with Linowitz, it should be noted that they were practical and detailed.

At the meeting with Dr Burg, the head of the Israeli negotiating team asked: Are this week's meetings being held in light of the expected meeting between Carter and Begin or in its shadow? Linowitz replied: Certainly in the light of the expected talks and it is our task to prepare the summit meeting and do the preparatory work. Sol Linowitz wants to leave Israel with some sort of achievement. The ministerial team to the talks is aware of this fact. Above all, it is clear here that the negotiations have reached a deadlock and only concessions from both sides will advance them. This morning, then, decisions are expected that will change the direction of the talks.

News Conference in Jerusalem

TA250912 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 25 Mar 80 TA

[Text] U.S. Ambassador Sol Linowitz confirmed at a Jerusalem news conference that he had, in his talk with the prime minister, put forward his request to freeze the settlements.

Linowitz confirmed that he had expressed Washington's concern, to the prime minister, at the Cabinet decision to settle Jewish houses in Hebron. In reply to a question by our correspondent Dan Eshel, Linowitz said that he condemned the remarks made last night by the mayor of Hebron and those of the Qadi of Hebron, which had been filled with hatred.

AGREEMENTS MADE TO EXPEDITE AUTONOMY TALKS

Begin Reassures As-Sadat

TA241752 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Mar 80 TA

[Text] This afternoon the prime minister sent a reply letter to President as-Sadat. The letter was transferred to our ambassador in Cairo for transmission to the president. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that the prime minister stresses in the letter that Israel is faithfully adhering to the Camp David accords and their spirit and that it is not delaying the talks on the establishment of the autonomy. At the end of the letter, the prime minister wishes well to As-Sadat's wife and family.

Our correspondent remarks that the letter was sent with the cooperation and approval of Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Dr Yosef Burg.

Acceleration of Talks

TA241753 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Mar 80 TA

[Text] The heads of the U.S., Israeli and Egyptian delegations to the autonomy talks decided to accelerate the negotiations. Accordingly, meetings of the ministerial teams and of the working groups will be taking place at an accelerated rate until 26 May.

Our political correspondent has learned that the chairman of the Israeli team, Minister Yosef Burg, was scheduled to depart tomorrow afternoon for Egypt with Sol Linowitz for a meeting with the Egyptian prime minister, but because of the vote on the budget, Minister Burg will remain here.

ISRAEL WILLING TO HELP TREAT SHAH OF IRAN

TA241245 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 24 Mar 80 TA

[Text] This morning Israeli Health Minister Eli'ezer Shostak said Israel would be willing to help treat the shah, but the request would have to come from the outside.

FOREIGN MINISTER SHAMIR INTERVIEWED ON EGYPT, U.S. RELATIONS

TA211458 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Mar 80 p 24 TA

[Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir interviewed by Dov Goldstein, time and place not indicated]

[Excerpts] [Question] At the time you objected to the conditions in the peace agreement with Egypt, but added: "What is done cannot be undone." I would like to ask you: Why can things not be undone? Senator Jackson came a few months ago and reported to the prime minister and to others, with grave concern, about extremely serious things he had heard from President as-Sadat which totally contradict his public statements about peace with Israel. Is the Government of Israel not obliged to rediscuss and reconsider things and make new decisions--perhaps even stop the process of withdrawal?

[Answer] You have touched upon the sphere of policy-making and the moment I joined the cabinet I took it upon myself to carry out its policy....

[Question] And do you not have to influence its policy?

[Answer] Yes, I do. But I will only do so within the government framework and in my talks with the prime minister and with ministers. That is why I cannot enter into a discussion or an argument with you on problems or doubts of one sort or another. I will only say that Israel must keep its commitments in accordance with the peace treaty. A wise and responsible government should always be on guard to examine every development and make decisions as called for by the developments.

[Question] Excuse me, why can you not reply to a simple question: Should Israel review the ways in which Egypt is implementing the peace agreement time and again before the IDF withdraws to the international border?

[Answer] No minister is obliged to tell any man what he will say at the Cabinet session or what he said in previous sessions. This is the only way for a government to function. The government reviews the events in the region and throughout the world every day.

[Question] And has it observed the unevenness and deviations?

[Answer] This is a matter for negotiations and contacts with Egypt. In general, the Egyptians have been fulfilling their commitments in accordance with the peace treaty. If the implementation is rocky and there are deviations, this should be sorted out in contacts with Egypt.

[Question] The first anniversary of the peace treaty has been marked recently. The establishment of embassies in Cairo and Tel Aviv has been regarded as one of the signs of peace and normalization. Reporters in Cairo write that the embassy there is isolated and besieged. Egyptians are not responding to invitations extended by the ambassador and are not inviting him. Is this the normalization for which Israel had given up immense assets and taken huger risks?

[Answer] Peace and normalization are still young. It is but a sapling. It must be taken care of and tended with a loving hand. It is necessary to overcome psychological and other hurdles. At best, even if all the dreams of peace materialized, there would be no justification for expecting the parties to grow close to each other quickly or for a swift development of closeness and feelings of friendship after such a bitter and prolonged bloody conflict. I would advise all of us to avoid passing judgment after such a short period of time. Let us not stand with a stopwatch in our hand or with an instrument measuring the strength of the Egyptian handshakes or the breadth and sincerity of their smiles. Much more than just time is necessary to assess peace and its consequences.

[Question] Perhaps we have developed an overlarge degree of patience to avoid admitting with a heavy heart that we have gone too far in our concessions to Egypt. Perhaps we have been tempted to believe their beautiful words, whereas in fact we only have peace on paper?

[Answer] We assess the situation soberly and without delusions or exaggerations. Even in the estimation of the most extreme optimists one cannot expect everything to proceed smoothly, fluently and without obstacles. One ought to have patience and understanding. One should employ mutual persuasion. There is no other way. If we decided to embark upon this course, we should be prepared to face all the obstacles and fight them with patience, yet at the same time, maintain the correct proportions on our side to prevent the phenomenon of disproportions. There is no reason, for instance, why many Israelis should request entry visas into Egypt whereas only few Egyptians desire Israeli visas in Cairo. This is merely one example.

[Question] Israel and Egypt have entrusted the issue of normalization to their defense ministers. Do you not think that this is negative, proving--so to speak--that the arrangement between the two countries is military and do you not believe that the process should be conducted by the foreign ministers?

[Answer] This was decided upon as a temporary arrangement to speed up the process. Normally, after a short period of transition, the matter would be transferred--as is common practice--to the auspices of the two countries' foreign ministers.

[Question] When will that happen?

[Answer] I do not know precisely when, but soon after Passover.

[Question] Do you plan to put an end to the anomaly that the autonomy negotiations--at present the most important political process, for which the prime minister has been summoned to a meeting with President Carter to speed it up--is being conducted, on the Egyptian side, by the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Khalil and on the Israel side by Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg?

[Answer] This is not an anomaly. After all, there is no precedent for such negotiations. The Cabinet decided that the interior minister would head the Ministerial Committee for Autonomy Affairs. He is functioning properly and any change in the functioning, if necessary, will be made by the government.

[Question] And you think this will not be necessary?

[Answer] I have no intention of bringing about revolutions. I will join the ministerial team as a member. I already have. I will participate in the deliberations and meetings.

[Question] Will you not request leadership of the team?

[Answer] You know, already...I have never asked for anything for myself. If I am appointed to it, I will accept.

[Question] If we leave the target date (26 May), is there a likely chance that the differences between Egypt and Israel over the basic issues that are still disputed may be bridged?

[Answer] Yes, but only if both parties adhere to the formulation and spirit of the Camp David accords.

[Question] These agreements are given various interpretations. Can Israel contribute to the success of the talks--in the United States and in the ministerial autonomy teams--by making concessions?

[Answer] I do not believe a party to negotiations should announce in advance, in the course of negotiations, that it is ready to make concessions. The acceptable technique is that each party insists on their views until a possibility of coming closer can be seen. This is how things should be done in these negotiations, too.

[Question] On reviewing President Carter's attitude toward Israel, even though he now needs the Jewish vote, should one reach the conclusion that 'Ezer Weizman's public backing of the President was a serious mistake on the part of Israel?

[Answer] No Israeli politician should state his opinion publicly, or favor one candidate or another, in times of elections in another country.

[Question] Did it harm Israel?

[Answer] This is something that should be considered...

[Question] How would you evaluate it?

[Answer] This was not called for...

[Question] Do you agree with Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon that the United States is interested in establishing a Palestinian state?

[Answer] No. If this is Mr Sharon's assessment, then I do not accept it. Such trends are rife among various administration officials in the United States, but as far as I know, the official and authoritative position is against the establishment of a Palestinian state.

[Question] Do you support Jewish settlemen in Hebron?

[Answer] I support Jewish settlement throughout Eretz Yisra'el, without exceptions. However, each case must be discussed in terms of timing and the order of priorities.

[Question] Do you support Jewish settlement in Hebron now?

[Answer] Jewish settlement in Hebron already exists. Qiryat Arba' is Hebron.

[Question] Do you support resettling Jewish houses in old Hebron, not in Qiryat Arba'?

[Answer] I will express my opinion at the upcoming Cabinet session.

[Question] If president Carter is reelected, do you fear what he may do to Israel?

[Answer] It is common knowledge that even today there are differences of opinion between Israel and the U.S. Administration and, of course, between us and President Carter, on very vital and important problems. After he is reelected, we may find things more difficult and it will be harder for us to face the differences of opinion. That would not change our positions. No Israeli cabinet will ever give up the matters most vital for the security and existence of Israel.

[Question] You joined the Cabinet at a time when it is at the lowest point in the estimation of the citizens; when it is divided and scored by its own ministers. This weakens the government in its external struggles. As a member of the Cabinet and a friend of the prime minister, what do you intend to do to improve the government's status?

[Answer] I do not accept the description you have just given...

[Question] It is not only my estimate. This has been determined by public opinion polls...

[Answer] Oh, the polls... I will do my best to strengthen the government so that it appears as a unified Cabinet. I have various ideas inthis respect and I will raise them before the ministers.

[Question] What is now wrong with the government's functioning?

[Answer] You want me to criticize the Cabinet? Well, no, no minister is allowed to do so publicly. This is an iron rule. I will raise my suggestions before the prime minister and the ministers, not to the media.

[Question] And will also work toward improving the cabinet's image in this field, too?

[Answer] Yes, and by giving a personal example, too.

[Question] Will you recommend that the prime minister be given full authority to dismiss a minister who has deviated from the acceptable rules?

[Answer] Yes, definitely. If this is possible in a coalition government, I support such a bill wholeheartedly. It seems to me essential and obligatory, as it is practiced in many other parliamentary democracies.

[Question] What will the prime minister achieve by this?

[Answer] Strengthening the prime minister's authority is necessary to improve the Cabinet's functioning and for its very existence. The Cabinet must be a collective acting out of discipline, unity and strict adherence to Cabinet decisions.

[Question] Has the prime minister already exercised all his other powers without this law?

[Answer] Again you are looking for criticism of the prime minister...not from me. Naturally, a minister would not criticize his prime minister. He cannot even express reservations. Only here has the natural thing become the unnatural thing. This has turned upside down...

[Question] What do you think about the view that the most patriotic thing the Cabinet can now do is to resign and declare early elections?

[Answer] The elections should take place when they are supposed to. This is desirable in every national respect. The Cabinet can continue to function and obtain important achievements for the country.

[Question] Despite all the "malfunctions?"

[Answer] Despite all the incitement activity conducted against it.

[Question] Is everything just instigation? Is there no truth in the criticism?

[Answer] There is a lot of exaggeration in destructive criticism. Obviously there are difficulties. Am I to say that everything is as pure as snow and perfect? I will not. There are objective obstacles and there are obstacles erected by Israeli elements for the purpose of bringing down the Cabinet. These elements are eager to assume power.

[Question] Can the opposition not strive toward power?

[Answer] It can, but not at all costs. It is customary in many democracies that a unified foreign policy is consolidated even though these countries are not confronted with such problems affecting our existence as we are.

[Question] Perhaps because they are not struggling with problems of existence it is easier for them to consolidate a unified policy?

[Answer] No. We are committed to this more than any other country in the world. This is the basis of a consensus. If they need it, we need it doubly. Our public expressions of differences of opinion weaken our positions in rapprochement and in deliberating with any political element abroad.

Instead of stressing the area where we are united and unified, what we share in common, we present before the entire world what separates us. We are being engulfed by a wave of hostile European politicians, demanding the enforcement of a solution, a withdrawal to the strangulating borders of 1967. The establishment of a Palestinian state and an official recognition of the terrorist organization called the PLO. I am convinced that if we had presented a unified and strong position in the face of this wave, this would have forced the European statesmen to reconsider their views.

[Question] Why should you complain about the opposition? Is the Cabinet not humming a dozen different tunes? Perhaps it would be advisable to return to the habit where only the prime ministers and the foreign minister express themselves in public on foreign affairs whereas the other ministers only talk about the affairs of their ministries?

[Answer] Certainly. This is indeed the practice in democratic-parliamentarian governments, and all the more so in presidential regimes. The chief spokesman on foreign policy is the prime minister, and sometimes also the foreign minister. Ministers should not express themselves publicly on foreign affairs.

BEGIN DECIDES TO APPROVE EEC OFFICE IN TEL AVIV

TA241806 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Israel has agreed that the European Common Market commission should set up a special representation in Tel Aviv with diplomatic status. Our economic correspondent Yosi Melman has learned that this decision was reached in a consultation between the prime minister and several cabinet members. The matter still requires legislation. In the past, the Foreign Ministry had demanded that the representation be in Jerusalem, but at today's consultation it was decided that this is no longer necessary, especially since the commission has already set up diplomatic representations in Egypt, Syria and Jordan.

HEBRON SETTLEMENT SPARKS INTENSE CONTROVERSY

Appeal to Knesset

TA241319 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 24 Mar 80 TA

[Text] The Cabinet has informed the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee of its decision about Hebron and the Democratic Movement's request for an appeal. Our correspondent says that Cabinet Secretary Arye Na'or sent an announcement this morning to the committee chairman Moshe Arens saying that the Democratic Movement wants to bring the issue up for debate and decision by the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee. The prime minister has authorized the submittal of the appeal and given instructions for the implementation of the Cabinet decision to be postponed until the committee's decision. Our correspondent says that, from the text of the Cabinet announcement, it emerges that the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee will be asked to decide on the issue. It appears that the request by coalition members of the committee to postpone the debate until after the Passover break will be granted.

No Vote on 27 Mar

TA241803 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Mar 80 TA

[Excerpt] On Thursday the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee will not vote on the Cabinet decision on Hebron. Our Knesset Correspondent Tzvi Yisra'eli says that even though there is a majority demanding such a vote, its opponents could delay it for several days by requesting a factional consultation.

Discussion May Be Expedited

TA241525 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Mar 80 TA

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin asked the chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee to have the committee discuss, at an early opportunity, the Cabinet decision to set up a yeshiva and a field school in Hebron. Professor Yadin is appealing the Cabinet decision.

Our Knesset correspondent Tzvi Yisra'eli reports that one third of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, the representatives of the Alinement and Shay, signed a request to convene the committee for an urgent session to discuss the Cabinet decision on Hebron. They are basing their request on a clause in the Knesset regulations, which necessitates an urgent session if one third of the committee members demand this.

West Bank Strike

TA250848 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 25 Mar 80 TA

[Text] There is a general commercial strike today in all the West Bank towns other than Janin to protest the Cabinet decision about Hebron. Students are also on strike in several of the towns. In East Jerusalem, all businesses are closed and most of the schools are also closed. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the military government does not intend to interfere with the course of the general strike and it only intends to prevent breaches of the peace, if there are any.

Commentary in 'AL HAMISHMAR

TA241047 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 24 Mar 80 p 1 TA

[By Dalya Shehori]

[Excerpt] Experienced legal sources said last night that the possibility that the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee will accept the appeal [regarding the Hebron decision] could cause a problem. Since nothing was said in the coalition agreement, the question would arise of what is the significance or the status given to one of the Knesset committee regarding a Cabinet decision. An appeal is generally made to a higher body than that to whose decision the appeal is being submitted. In the case we are confronted with it appears that the appeal is submitted to a higher body, or one on the same level. This latter requires a decision. However, in any event, it appears that the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee's approval of the appeal would--at least--require that the issue be returned to the cabinet for another debate.

Cost of Implementing Decision

TA241049 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 24 Mar 80 p 1 TA

[Text] The government is due to invest more than 100 million Israeli pounds in the establishment of the yeshiva and field school in Hebron; this was learned by the ITIM correspondent in Judaea and Samaria.

Since the visit to Herbon by Minister of Construction and Housing David Levi, a team of planners from his ministry has prepared a program for the rehabilitation of the town's Jewish quarter and other Jewish buildings. The team planned the program after a survey made of the area and the minister submitted it at the Cabinet session.

The reference is to repairing the ruins covering an area no larger than that around the Avraham Avinu Synagogue in the town. The yeshiva will be established in that area in a three-story building, with a boarding school with living quarters next to the yeshiva. According to what has been planned, the Avraham Avinu Synagogue, which has recently been undergoing a process of repairs, will be at the center of blocs of yeshiva buildings. The two old buildings remaining in the Jewish quarter almost in their entirety will also be used by members of the Hebron nucleus who will work in the yeshiva. These buildings, which have five stories, are in the process of being repaired.

The hadassah building, many parts of which are not under construction and which is today being used for dwellings for the three families from the Hebron nucleus, will have a third story built on to it. The entire building will be used, after its construction and repair, for a field school and religious college for Hebron studies, where students from all over the country will be hosted. Several families of teachers and instructors will live there in the boarding school.

It will be noted that all the buildings to be repaired or established in Hebron have been planned very carefully, while preserving their original appearance.

ISRAELI CREW BRINGS EGYPTIAN OIL TO ELAT

TA231008 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Mar 80 p 8 TA

[By M. Avital]

[Text] For the first time a cargo of Egyptian crude oil arrived in Elat yesterday aboard a tanker whose whole crew is Israeli.

The tanker, "Irene [Lemos"], which flys a Liberian flag, traveled empty from Haifa to the 'Alma Oil Field in At-Tur via the Suez Canal. There it loaded 50,000 tons of crude oil which arrived in Elat yesterday.

The crew pointed out that the reception they received at 'Alma was very hearty and it was clear that this was not dictated from "higher up," but expressed real joy.

This tanker will now sail regularly on the Elat--At-Tur route in accordance with agreements with Egypt.

AFGHANISTAN

FRENCH CORRESPONDENTS DISCUSS CONDITIONS IN KONARHA PROVINCE

BK221512 Hong Kong AFP in English 1424 GMT 22 Mar 80 BK

[By Alain Faudeux]

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan 22 March (AFP)--Two French journalists, probably the first observers to enter Afghanistan's Konarha Province since the Soviet large-scale offensive in the region, confirmed today that villages have been destroyed and that there is an exodus of the population.

Herve Chabalier of the Paris newspaper LE MATIN and photographer Michel Phillipot spent 5 days walking through Konarha areas controlled by Jam'iat-e Eslami rebels and returned to Pakistan to report on what they had seen.

"The Mojahedin led us to a mountain above the town of Chigha Sarai on the Kunar River, where we were able to watch Soviet troops," Mr Chabalier said. "We saw a column of 15 tanks on the road below. We went through many villages in the mountains which are still controlled by rebels. Many of the villages were totally destroyed, others were almost intact but deserted by their inhabitants.

"As we left for Konarha on Tuesday, we passed hundreds of refugees heading toward Pakistan," Mr Chabalier said, "and there were as many on the road when we returned."

The two journalists said that with the exception of towns like Asmar and the mountain town which they used as an observation post, Konarha Province was a battlefield and that the rebels--short of efficient weapons and even of food--were in bad shape.

"We were surprised, nevertheless, to see that the rebels had Soviet-made RPG-7 anti-tank weapons," Mr Chabalier said. "As we left Pakistan, I noticed crates of RPG shells covered by matting in Jam'iat-e Eslami sections. I was told that it was materiel seized in the battle areas, but I can't quite believe it."

These new supplies of arms--salvaged or not--are in short supply. Observers have said that Jam'iat-e Eslami forces have no recourse but to hide if Soviet helicopters or airplanes are spotted.

"Helicopters survey the towns from a few meters above the ground and any rebels who are there hide in the far corners of the stone and mud houses until they leave," Mr Chabalier said.

An ancient antiaircraft gun has been seen in many photographs taken in Afghan regions controlled by the Hezb-e-Eslami organization, but it seems that all the photos are of the same weapon transported from place to place by the rebels. They like to be photographed in front of the weapon, next to a portrait of their leader, Gulbudoin Hikmatyar.

SOVIET TROOPS CONTROL ROAD FROM KABUL TO SOVIET BORDER

BK231620 Hong Kong AFP in English 1550 GMT 23 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Islamabad, 23 Mar (AFP)--Soviet troops have apparently gained uncontested control of the major north-south highway linking Kabul and the Soviet-Afghan border, two French journalists said today upon completion of a three week trip across Afghanistan. Returning to the Pakistani border post of Peshawar, Jerome Marchand of the weekly newsmagazine LE POINT and Alain Dejean, a photographer with the Sygma Photo Agency, said that their journey had left them with the image of "a relaxed Soviet Army perfectly in control of the situation, at least along roads and in urban centers."

"We went northward up to Mazar-e-Sharif, 450 km (270 miles) north of Kabul and 80 km (50 miles) from the Soviet border," Mr. Marchand said. "There was not a single unguarded bridge, not a single mountain pass that is not under the sights of tanks or machineguns." "This road carries heavy overland military traffic," he continued. "We passed long lines of Russian tankers carrying fuel to Kabul, and a convoy of 300 amored vehicles preceded us to Mazar-e-Sharif.

"The next morning the tanks were gone, presumably heading toward the northeastern provinces of Kathagan and Badakhshan," he said.

"These movements show that the Soviets have begun swarming outward from the four vast military camps we saw north of Kabul in order to cover the whole of the country," Mr. Marchand went on. "This is undoubtedly the spring offensive everyone has been waiting for."

Jerome Marchand gained access to Kabul by explaining that he had come to visit friends. Alian Dejean joined him by slipping unobtrusively among the passengers of a bus linking Peshawar and the Afghan capital.

"The atmosphere in Kabul has become tougher since my last visit there in January," Mr. Marchand continued. "Very young recruits for the militia of President Babrak Karmal's Parcham Party have been armed and militants of the Khalq Communist Party under the former regime have been rearmed. The green uniforms of the militia can be seen everywhere," he said.

"Among the population, the dominant climate is one of denunciation. Our identities were checked again and again, and we always had the feeling of being surrounded by informers for the government," Mr. Marchand said.

Mr. Dejean added that taking photos was a perilous operation for which he had to take extreme precautions. The two journalists spent ten days in Kabul during a relatively quiet period in the capital.

The area of Kabul where Soviet advisers have been staying is cut off from the rest of the city by tanks, the French newsmen said, adding that armored vehicles guarding major intersections in the capital are driven by Afghan-Soviet teams.

"In January, the Soviet intervention forces did not appear in town in broad daylight," Mr Marchand recalled. He added that currently "there is great uncertainty as to the fate of Babrak Karmal, whose last public appearance was some time ago. Numerous rumors have been circulating about the state of his health and his visits to Soviet bloc countries."

Using the Moslem New Year celebrations in Mazar-e-Sharif as their pretext, the two journalists managed to take a bus northward. "The trip took twelve hours. There were militiamen, Afghan soldiers and even a Russian in the bus, but our identities were checked five or six times. Young Russian soldiers smiled good-naturedly at us when they learned we were French," they recounted.

The two newsmen said they observed the most impressive military installations at the Salang Pass, about 150 km (90 miles) north of Kabul.

On the trip back to the capital, they were again searched with weapon detectors and had to haggle several times with Parcham Party militants.

On their way back to Pakistan last Monday, the two French journalists nearly fell into a rebel ambush in a mountain area west of Jalalabad. "The rebels had dug a trench across the road during the night and, from their hiding places behind the boulders, were shooting at trucks which stopped at the roadblock," Mr. Marchand said.

"Two trucks, hit in their gasoline tanks, exploded. Dejean was able to take some photos, but we spent a hairy 20 minutes there until an armed convoy arrived," he went on.

"A (Soviet) MiG flew over the road. Then two MI-24 helicopter gunships dropped rockets on the rebels, and three tanks crossed the ditch to pour cannonfire into the boulders. Our driver took us another 800 meters (half a mile) from there to a village, and he had to swear that we were not Russian to fend off the hostile villagers. We didn't see any rebels there, who Afghan soldiers armed with long-range rifles were attempting to follow," he said. "We finally got out of there, but we never found out whether anyone died in the ambush."

RATEBZAD RETURNS FROM TOUR OF EASTERN BLOC COUNTRIES 22 MAR

LD221524 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 22 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Dr Anahita Ratebzad, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA], member of the Revolutionary Council and minister of training and education, at the invitation of the government and party authorities of the GDR, Czechoslovakia and the USSR visited these countries some days ago. She returned to Kabul this afternoon. She was welcomed at Kabul airport by members of the Political Bureau of the PDPA Central Committee, a number of Revolutionary Council and Central Committee members, some members of the council of ministers, high-ranking officials of the Ministry of Training and Education, members of party organizations and the ambassadors of the USSR, GDR and Czechoslovakia.

SOLTAN 'ALI KESHTMAND TO MEET DELEGATION IN MOSCOW

LD231902 Kabul in Pashto to Europe 1730 GMT 23 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The Information Department of the Foreign Ministry has reported that a delegation, including the deputy ministers of water and power and commerce; the general director of economic affairs of the Foreign Ministry; and the director of foreign relations of the Planning Ministry, left for Prague today to conducts talks on economic, technical and scientific cooperation between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia and to sign relevant agreements on this cooperation.

The delegation is led by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the Political Bureau of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, vice president of the Revolutionary Council, deputy prime minister, and minister of planning, who is in Moscow and will join the delegation in Moscow. [as heard]

PANJSHIRI MEETS BALKH PROVINCE MILITARYMEN 22 MAR

LD221912 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 22 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Dastagir Panjshiri, member of the Political Bureau of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee and member of the Revolutionary Council, met the officers and soldiers of the ground and air forces of Balkh Province today and participated in meetings with them at the headquarters of the ground and air forces.

In these meetings, Dastagir Panjshiri conveyed the warm greetings of the PDPA Central Committee and Babrak Karmal to the officers and soldiers and described the role of the armed forces in safeguarding the gains of the new state of the Sawr Revolution as vital and necessary during a general review of the Afghan Army's history. He expressed best wishes for a prosperous life and a glorious and insured future for the workers of Afghanistan.

Dastagir Panjshiri expressed appreciation for the deep, friendly relations and all-round cooperation between Afghanistan and the USSR, and described Afghan-Soviet relations as unbreakable.

MINISTER FAYZ MOHAMMED ADDRESSES TRIBES IN PAKTIA PROVINCE

LD222214 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 0330 GMT 22 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The warm greetings of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee, president of the Revolutionary Council, and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA], were conveyed by Fayz Mohammad, the minister of frontier affairs, to the elders of the Jani Khel district of Paktia Province during a meeting 2 days ago.

The minister of frontier affairs made a speech at this meeting. While exposing the conspiracies of the enemies of the people of Afghanistan against the revolutionary government of Afghanistan and against the interests of the workers of Afghanistan, Mohammad said: The government and the PDPA are foiling these conspiracies with full strength. No powers can any longer carry out their foul deeds on our sacred soil.

In response, a number of elders, on behalf of the others, made speeches and expressed their full solidarity with the revolutionary government of Afghanistan, and promised every kind of sacrifice to eliminate the enemies of our homeland.

According to another report, the minister of frontier affairs yesterday met different tribes of Jaji and Mangal in Khowst and explained the lofty and progressive objectives of the DRA government to them. The minister of frontier affairs exposed and emphatically condemned the inhuman and treacherous actions of the enemies of our homeland. During the meeting the tribes of Jaji and Mangal promised their unreserved cooperation with the party and the revolutionary government of Afghanistan.

KABUL RADIO REPORTS NEW YEAR FESTIVITIES IN MAZAR-E SHARIF, KABUL

LD211912 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Mar 80 LD

[Summary] The holy flag was raised in Mazar-e Sharif to mark the beginning of the New Year festival. Thousands of people from various parts of the country who gathered at this festival wished for the success of the government and peace in the country. G. Dastagir Panjshiri, member of the Revolutionary Council, made a speech at the festival and conveyed greetings from Babrak Karmal. After this the governor of Balkh Province and the president of the Balkh court also made speeches.

At the Jamal Mainah in Kabul, the Kabul governor, mayor, party and government officials, and the citizens of Kabul, joined in the New Year festivities.

Last night Kabul television carried the New Year speech by Babrak Karmal. It was published today by the daily HAQIQATE ENQLABE SAWR. The youth and women democratic organization of Afghanistan distributed 180,000 new year greeting pamphlets among the citizens of Kabul.

KHAN 'ABDOL QAFAR KHAN HAILS SOVIET 'AID'

LD241800 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Khan 'Abdol Qafar Khan has explicitly endorsed the military aid given by the Soviet Union to Afghanistan and has asked India to extend all possible assistance to Kabul. In an interview with the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA, held in the military hospital in Kabul, Pacha Khan said: There is no question of an occupation of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union. I think that the Soviets have helped the Afghans and have rescued them from the oppression of the savage Hafizollah Amin.

Alluding to the Indian initiative for the solution of the Afghanistan issue, he said: I believe that the initiative of Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian prime minister, will help in this matter. Pacha Khan said: I pray for Mrs Indira Gandhi's successes in this matter. This issue can be (?easily) solved by Indira Gandhi.

In answer to a question on his view of the revolution in Afghanistan, especially the fall of Hafizollah Amin, Pacha Khan said: I believe that the overthrow of Amin was a major event. We are happy, and the Afghans are also happy, about this event. When Amin was toppled, many people came to Jalalabad to see me during the days of the 'Id Festival. The people welcomed Amin's overthrow and were very happy. But 3 days later in America and Britain, and those who have views similar to theirs, created an atmosphere designed to change public opinion.

Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, has announced: When peace is restored to Afghanistan, and it is guaranteed that no attack will take place from the Pakistani soil against Afghanistan, at that time the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union will withdraw from Afghanistan.

Pacha Khan said: I was surprised to learn that some people believe that the Soviet Union has occupied Afghanistan. I think that the Soviets were benificient to rescue Afghanistan.

He was asked: What is your view about Babrak Karmal, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan?

Pacha Khan said: It is my belief that Karmal is an honest and patriotic Afghan. He is concerned for the well-being of Afghanistan and wishes to rescue it.

Pacha Khan was asked: When were the Soviets invited to come to Afghanistan?

Pacha Khan said: The Soviets were invited to come to Afghanistan during Amin's reign. Should the United Nations, America and others guarantee that Pakistan will not attack Afghanistan, I think that the Soviet Union will leave Afghanistan.

He was asked: Do you think that peace and stability will be restored to Afghanistan?

Pacha Khan said: The situation is in the process of change and this change is in the direction of improvement. But irregularities still exist. Efforts are, however, underway which indicate developments in the direction of improvement.

NATIONAL OIL INSTITUTE REPORTS ABOVE-PLAN SUCCESSES

LD212224 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Thanks to the indefatigable work of the engineers and other personnel of the National Institute of Oil of Afghanistan [NOIA], the [words indistinct] development [words indistinct] and transportation of oil and gas has been completed at several fields ahead of schedule and above the plan for last year.

A report from the NOIA says that the institute has received more than $200 million from the export of gas. In geological exploration the plan called for 30,000 meters drilled but the NOIA has achieved 30,499 meters drilled. In the field of [word indistinct] the plan called for 15,000 (units not specified) but (15,837) has been achieved. Instead of 7,000 meters [words indistinct] drilling, there has been 10,056 meters of drilling.

The recovery and export of natural gas last year involved 2.4 billion cubic meters. In addition to this, 10,000 tons of chemical fertilizer and 36,000kw of electricity for Mazar-e Sharif city and the chemical fertilizer plant were produced.

In the field of geological cartography, according to various estimates [as heard] 350 square kms were mapped. The plan called for 250 square kms to be mapped.

USSR HELPS NATION SUBSIDIZE SUGAR IMPORTS

LD231900 Kabul in Pashto to Europe 1730 GMT 23 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Here is a government statement: The council of ministers has resolved at a meeting that sugar be supplied, as previously, to our dear compatriots throughout the country at 30 Afghanis per kilogram despite the increase in the price of sugar on the international market and its increased cost. Recently the sugar price on the international market has almost doubled; and the cost of sugar on the international market, a quantity of which has been recently purchased, is 60 Afghanis per kilogram.

Since sugar is a basic item needed by our toilers and long-suffering families and a public necessity, the government with the help of the friendly USSR has fixed the sugar price at 30 Afghanis per kilogram, thus incurring a loss of 30 Afghanis a kilogram. The government, because of its policy regarding the comfort and welfare of the noble and persecuted people of Afghanistan, has agreed to subsidize sugar by 30 Afghanis per kilogram.

KABUL REPORTS PLANNED NATURAL GAS EXPORTS TO USSR

GF241836 Kabul International Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Mar 80 GF

[Excerpts] Some 2.3 billion cubic meters of natural gas from the reserves of (Jarkhodug) and (Khvajeh Bogurdak) will be exported to the Soviet Union in 1980. The revenue from these sales at current prices is estimated at about $200 million.

In an interview with a BAKHTAR correspondent a national oil organization official said: In 1979, revenue from sales of natural gas to the Soviet Union totalled some $82 million. Revenue from domestic sales amounted to more than 35 million afghanis. As a result of the joint efforts of Afghan engineers and engineers from the friendly Soviet Union, oil reserves amounting to an estimated 14 million tons have been found in the northern provinces.

Thus, the sale of 30,000 tons of crude oil to consumers will increase the state's revenue in 1359 [began on 21 March 1980] by about 200 million Afghanis.

The official added: According to preliminary estimates, there about 160 billion cubic meters of natural gas in the northern and northwestern provinces of Afghanistan.

In response to a question on the exploitation of natural resources, the official said: In 1967, it was possible to exploit natural gas reserves in (Khvajeh Bogurdak) with the Soviet Union's economic and technical assistance. This operation is continuing. The construction of 103 km of natural gas pipelines 28 mm in diameter from [word indistinct] to the Afghan-Soviet border made it possible to export natural gas the same year.

BANK SHAREHOLDERS TO RECEIVE SUSPENDED REMITTANCES

LD242231 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Here is an announcement from the DRA Government's Ministry of Finance:

After the historical change of 27 December 1979, when the victorious Sawr Revolution entered its new development stage, for the protection and security of the property of Afghan merchants, private enterprises and individual persons, effective measures have been taken to return confiscated properties to their rightful owners. Hence, on the basis of the announcement of 28 December 1979 by the DRA Government, the Ministry of Finance has decided that the value of the shares of those private institutions, individuals and corporations who were shareholders in the banks and whose shares have not been remitted since the nationalization of the banks, should be paid in accordance with the spirit of decree number 603 dated 25 July 1976. After the publication of this statement the banks are dutybound to take measures, with consideration for the procedures of each bank and their financial fluidity, to repay the share values to such institutions and persons.

BANGLADESH

GENERAL AMNESTY DECLARED TO MARK INDEPENDENCE DAY

BK241725 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 24 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The government has decided to release more prisoners under general amnesty on the occasion of the ninth independence anniversary on Wednesday [26 March]. This was announced by prime minister and leader of the house, Shah Azizur Rahman in Jatiya Sangsad [Parliament] this evening. He said the amnesty will cover those prisoners who have been in jail for a period of 1 year and have not yet been charge-sheeted or on whom no crime report has been submitted as yet. The amnesty will also include those who are under trial and have been in detention [words indistinct].

Shah Azizur Rahman informed the house that the Home Ministry is preparing a list of those who will come under the amnesty. The list is to be released tomorrow. The prime minister's announcement was greeted with prolonged applause. Continuing his statement, he said the decision is an act of magnanimity on the part of the government which should be reciprocated in the same spirit. He made a strong appeal to the members of the opposition who are still boycotting the session to join the proceedings of the house. He observed that after this general amnesty there can be no legitimate ground for them to stay out of the house.

Amnesty Ordered for 793 Persons

BK250936 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 25 Mar 80 BK

[Text] On the occasion of Independence Day the government has ordered the release of a total number of 793 prisoners of which 391 are convicts, 361 held for trial and 41 detainees. This is in addition to the five prominent politicians ordered to be released by the president yesterday.

INDIA

USSR ADVISES 'SLOW DOWN' IN EFFORTS TO SOLVE AFGHAN CRISIS

BK241634 Hong Kong AFP in English 1556 GMT 24 Mar 80 BK

[By Dilip Gvanguly]

[Excerpt] New Delhi, 24 Mar (AFP)--The Soviet Union has advised India to "slow down" its diplomatic efforts to find a solution to the Afghanistan crisis, highly placed diplomatic sources disclosed here today. The Soviet advice came at the time when New Delhi was contemplating another round of talks with Pakistan and other countries to hammer out an acceptable solution of the Afghan issue.

"The Soviet move makes it clear that they are not in a hurry. They are sure of themselves and they seem to be in absolute control of Afghanistan; it is but natural that they would not like to commit themselves now to any move," the source, who declined to be identified, said.

The advice, which was informally conveyed last week, took the Indian Foreign Ministry by surprise.

Indian Foreign Office sources attribute the new Soviet stand to the growing Russian confidence that they can control Afghanistan, the unstable political situation in Pakistan (after the attempted coup against President Ziaul Haq) and the signing of the March 14 Moscow-Kabul agreement, which legalized the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

PRESIDENT GREETS PAKISTAN'S HAQ ON NATIONAL DAY

BK221609 Hong Kong AFP in English 1530 GMT 22 Mar 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, March 22 (AFP)--President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy has expressed India's desire to have greater cooperation with Pakistan. Mr Reddy said in a message to President Gen Ziaul Haq on the occasion of Pakistan's National Day that "We continue to look forward to enhanced cooperation in the context of the existing friendly relations between India and Pakistan in the spirit of the Simla Agreement." He also conveyed his "sincere good wishes for your excellency's good health and for the prosperity of the people of Pakistan."

GANDHI MAY SEND EMISSARY TO PAKISTAN

BK221354 Hong Kong AFP in English 1336 GMT 22 Mar 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 22 March (AFP)--Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi is thinking of sending a prominent political personality to Pakistan as her emissary for a detailed exchange of views with President Ziaul Haq on the Afghan situation, the conservative daily newspaper HINDU said today.

In a frontpaged report the paper said "the Indian ambassador in Islamabad is sounding the Pakistan Government on whether General Ziaul Haq would welcome such a visit at this time or he would prefer to wait for a more opportunate occasion." The paper identified the emissary as Mr Swaran Singh, a former foreign minister in Mrs Gandhi's earlier Cabinet.

HINDU said "the stage has now been reached when India can usefully enter into a frank exchange of views with Pakistan on how the countries of the area could work together in averting the dangers of a further escalation of the Afghan crisis.... The best that Mrs Gandhi can do at present, short of inviting General Zia to a summit meeting with her, is to depute an experienced political personality to talk to him on her behalf."

The paper said that the date of Mr Singh's visit would be announced as soon as India gets the okay from Islamabad.

Meets Delegates to Peace Conference

BK240916 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi has said that the need of the day is to make a common endeavor for peace and friendship. Such efforts can be strengthened bygetting together, discussing problems and finding common areas of agreement. Mrs Gandhi was speaking to the foreign delegates to the international conference on peace and security in Asia who called on her in New Delhi today. Mrs Gandhi said that India always stood for peace and would continue to do so. A major task before the country is to insure that the underprivileged and the poor are provided with the opportunity of contributing their talent in the service of the nation. So we regard domestic, foreign and economic policies as all different parts of one aim to have a better world for the people so that they could live in peace and harmony, she added.

World Peace Council President Mr Romesh Chandra, the sponsor of the international conference, presented the delegates to Mrs Gandhi. The prime minister received messages of greetings from each visiting delegate.

JANATA-RULED DELHI METROPOLITAN COUNCIL DISSOLVED

BK211442 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The Delhi metropolitan council was dissolved today under a presidential order. The 5-year term of the Janata-ruled Delhi administration was due to expire in 1982.

The president signed the order on the basis of a report received from lieutenant governor of Delhi, Jag Mohan. In his report the lieutenant governor said the Delhi administration is not being run properly. The order said all powers of the chief executive councillor and the executive councillors will now vest with the lieutenant governor.

Opposition Members Portest Dissolution

BK211650 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The opposition members in the Rajya Sabha today staged a walkout in protest against the dissolution of the Delhi metropolitan council. Leader of the opposition, L. K. Advani, raised the matter at the end of the day saying that the action of the government is issuing a presidential notification today and not bringing it to the notice of both houses of Parliament, which are in session, is in utter contempt of Parliament.

When several other opposition members wanted to speak on the matter, Vice Chairman (S. A. Aseria) did not allow a discussion on it.

DEMONSTRATION HELD OUTSIDE PAKISTAN, SOVIET EMBASSIES IN DELHI

BK231621 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Mar 80 BK

[Text] A demonstration was held outside the Pakistani Embassy in New Delhi today against the reported continued detention in Pakistan of 40 Indian Army officers since the 1971 war. The demonstrators included volunteers of the All India Rashtriya Yuva Janata [youth wing of Janata Party] and ex-servicemen. They demanded the early release of the detained army officers.

The demonstrators later went to the Soviet Embassy and shouted slogans demanding an early withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

AIJAL MARCH CONDEMNS MIZO REBEL VIOLENCE

BK251031 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Mar 80 BK

[Text] In Aijal, about 20,000 students took out a silent procession through the main streets yesterday to condemn the recent wave of violence by the outlawed Mizo National Front. Primary school children also participated in their school uniforms wearing traditional black mourning cloth.

Chief minister, Brigadier Sailo, his cabinet colleagues, the speaker of the Legislative Assembly, all the members of the Legislative Assembly [MlA's] and prominent public men also joined the procession. The students carried placards which said: "We condemn the violence," "The violence must end" and "We condemn the killings of our non-Mizo teachers".

The All India Radio Aijal correspondent reports that this is the first time such a mammoth demonstration was organized in Mizoram against violence since the outbreak of insurgency over a decade ago. Our correspondent adds that the church, youth and other voluntary organizations are planning to organize similar demonstrations against the violent incidents all over the territory in the next few days.

The chief minister is convening a meeting of all the MlA's today to discuss the law and order situation.

Additional Report on Demonstration

BK241703 Hong Kong AFP in English 1655 GMT 24 Mar 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 24 Mar (AFP)--Chief minister of the tiny northeastern border state of Mizoram, T. Sailo, and some of his Cabinet colleagues today joined about 10,000 students who formed a procession through the streets of Aizal, the state capital, condemning the recent violent incident in which two school teachers were killed by "unlawful Mizo elements", reports said.

All educational institutions in the state remained closed today in protest against the incident.

Earlier, a meeting of all political parties in Aizal, passed a resolution expressing deep concern at the series of violent incidents and "dastardly" killings of innocent and loyal citizens by unknown miscreants. About 16 people have been killed during the past three weeks by insurgents in a renewed spurt of violence in the border state, according to an earlier report.

200 Arrested in West Bengal

BK241613 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Mar 80 BK

[Text] In West Bengal, about 200 Chhatra Parisad-I demonstrators were arrested in Siliguri today while they tried to set up blockades on road and rail links to Assam. The student wing of the Congress-I began their movement this morning as a protest against the alleged atrocities on the non-Assamese people in Assam. Chief Minister Mr Jyoti Basu told newsmen in Calcutta this evening that the demonstrators also stopped the movement of passenger trains to Assam at New Jalpaiguri. However the road and rail blockades have been withdrawn, and normal traffic was resumed toward the afternoon, Mr Basu added.

Meanwhile the Assam government is sending an officer to West Bengal to make an on-the-spot study of the situation arising out of the large influx of Bengalis from Assam to the state. This was disclosed by the West Bengal chief secretary, Mr Amiya Sen, in Calcutta today.

A round-the-clock curfew has been reclamped along the 140-km-long Mizoram section of the Aizal-Silchar highway today. Night curfew has been in force on this road for about a month now. The imposition of round-the-clock curfew followed the ambush of a border road vehicle allegedly by a gang of the outlawed Mizo National Front near Koraput, about 80 km north of Aizal.

CPI SPLITS, GROUP FORMS SEPARATE PARTY

BK241710 Hong Kong AFP in English 1606 GMT 24 Mar 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 24 Mar (AFP)--The pro-Moscow Communist Party of India (CPI) has split again with a section of its members breaking away to form a separate party today. The breakaway group, supporting CPI's recently virtually removed Chairman Shripad Amrit Dange from office by the dominant rival leadership [as received], opened its first office at Nagpur in the veteran leader's home state of Maharashtra. The new party was christened National Communist Party of India (NCPI).

The C.P.I. first split into two in 1964 when a larger faction parted company to launch the present Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) which is currently ruling in West Bengal (capital Calcutta), Kerala, and Tripura state in alliance with several other leftist parties. CPI is however participating in the alliance only in Kerala. Differences over the approach towards the ruling Congress Party now led by Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi have been the main cause for the split on both occasions. Mr. Dange, 81, has throughout been a firm proponent of a policy of cooperation with the Congress Party.

The N.C.P.I. has appointed M.K. Deshpande as its chairman and Nashad Saharain general secretary. Mr. Dange, whose resignation as chairman of the CPI was formally accepted by the party's policy making bodies in February last has, however, not quit the organisation so far. Observers believed this would now probably be a matter of days or weeks.

The CPI and CPI-M, two largest of the communist parties including about half a dozen factions of pro-Peking communists or Naxalites, have started coming closer to each other through joint mass campaigns. Both have been increasingly critical of Mrs. Gandhi's party and her particularly.

PAKISTAN REFUGEES AGITATE FOR CITIZENSHIP

BK241635 Hong Kong AFP in English 1245 GMT 24 Mar 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 24 Mar (AFP)--Over 1,200 refugees from Pakistan, since living in Jammu region of Indian-held Kashmir on the border, have started an indefinite agitation demanding citizenship of this country, it was reported today.

The refugees fled Pakistan in 1947, following its formation as an independent country after dividing then composite India into two.

PRESS TRUST of INDIA (PTI) news agency in a dispatch said that the refugees had started a "sit-in" along the Ranbirsingh Pur border line of Jammu. The agitation entered its fourth day today, the report said.

'MISHAP' RELEASES RADIOACTIVE WATER FROM NUCLEAR PLANT

BK240617 Hong Kong AFP in English 0605 GMT 24 Mar 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, March 24 (AFP)--The Tarapore atomic power station near Bombay, West India, suffered a mishap recently and radioactive water gushed out from the pipeline, the ECONOMIC TIMES newspaper reported today. "The mishap occurred when the ice plug, which had been formed in order to transplant a section of the bypass loop, where cracks were discovered gave way," ECONOMIC TIMES said in a front-paged report.

"The accident took place on March 14, presumably due to welding heat that resulted in melting of the ice plug.... With the giving way of the ice plug, there was a sudden gush of radioactive water from the pipeline through the opening into the containment area of the reactor," the newspaper said. As a result of the accident, recommisioning of the plant will be delayed, the ECONOMIC TIMES said.

16 MILLION TONS OF CRUDE OIL TO BE IMPORTED THIS YEAR

BK231655 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Mar 80 BK

[Text] India is importing 16 million tons of crude oil this year to meet the current shortages. This was disclosed by union petroleum minister, Birendra Patil, in Lucknow today. He said that the center is also going to import 5.5 million tons of petroleum products to meet the increased demands for kerosene and diesel. He said this is in addition to the indigenous production of 40 million tons of crude in the country.

Patil blamed the previous Janata and Lok Dal governments for underestimating the growth rate of oil at 5 percent while formulating the import plan. He said this has resulted in the current shortages. He said the growth rate of petroleum products is 15.5 percent less than anticipated by the government and this growth rate has further jumped to 25 percent due to drought which has badly affected the power generation. Added to this is the shortage of crude supply from the three refineries from Assan due to the so-called antiforeigners agitation.

Referring to the supply position of petroleum and petroleum products in Uttar Pradesh, Patil said now shortages are only marginal. He assured that the center will be taking steps to meet the minimum demand of the state for 100,000 tons of petroleum products for the month of May. He asked the state government to deal effectively with the black marketeers in diesel and kerosene.

U.S. TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC AID WORTH $135 MILLION

BK220351 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The United States has decided to provide $135 million economic aid to India for 1981. This was indicated by the U.S. authorities to the Indian delegation at a meeting of the India-U.S. subcommission on the economic and commercial matters. The 3-day meeting, which ended in Washington yesterday, discussed a number of bilateral trade issues.

BULGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR 4-DAY VISIT

BK250846 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Bulgarian Foreign Minister Petur Mladenov has arrived in New Delhi on a 4-day visit to this country. He was given a warm welcome on his arrival. Among those who received him at the airport were union external affairs minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao, and many diplomats.

Speaking to newsmen at the airport Mr Mladenov said he will discuss with the Indian leaders prospects of improving bilateral relations and exchange views on some international issues of mutual interest. Mr Mladenov will call on external affairs minister, Narasimha Rao, President Sanjiva Reddy and Prime Minister Gandhi today. During his 4-day stay he will also call on Vice President Hidayatullah and Commerce Minister Pranab Mukerjee.

NEPAL

INDIAN STUDENT AGITATION CREATES OIL SHORTAGES

OW220410 Paris AFP in English 2301 GMT 21 Mar 80 OW

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Katmandu, March 21 (AFP)--The brunt of the Assamese (northern Indian) students' agitation has fallen on Nepal and consequently the country is faced today with great social and economic problems.

Since Nepal does not have its own refinery, all its crude oil imports from the Soviet Union and Iraq are being processed in Barauni and Assam, with nominal payment for handling charges to India. Nepal annually imports 200,000 metric tons of crude oil.

The students' agitation in Assam, triggered by "foreign national issues" since October last, had forced the closure of all the refineries in Assam and Barauni. This obliged Nepal to transport the oil either from Calcutta or Bombay. This shipment of petroleum products from Calcutta and Bombay involved an additional transport cost to this landlocked country. However, the regular flow of petroleum was delayed, affectings its general distribution in Nepal.

Nepal's daily requirement of petroleum products is about 25,000 litres (32,500 gallons). Consequently, however, the supply has been cut by half from mid-January. Earlier the country had been meeting the public demand from its reserve stocks, which were barely sufficient for 10 weeks.

This decline in petroleum supply has adversely affected the regular flow of an average of 1,500 to 2,000 metric tons of consumer goods to Katmandu from Raxaul (India's northern railhead) via the 190-kilometre-long (118-mile) Tirbhuvan highway--the only link road to India.

The Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC), a semi-governmental organization, has begun to supply petroeum products to general consumers and public transporters on a quota basis. The vehicle owners have to stand in long queues for hours and public transport has failed to run on time.

This has apparently given an opportunity to raise transport costs and prices of consumer goods. Even a taxi cab plying between Katmandu airport and local hotels charges an average 35 to (?200) rupees per trip, 300 per cent more than the normal fare.

Hotelkeepers, travel agents and public transport owners have had to struggle even to acquire a daily quota of 50 litres (13 gallons) of diesel oil or 10 litres (2.6 gallons) of petroleum.

The NOC, however, has given top priority to school and university buses and public transport, especially for carrying foodgrains to drought-affected areas.

Failure to meet demands for petroleum products adequately gave bureaucrats and labourers in particular an excuse to slow their production.

When questions are asked even about production of bricks, the price rise of sugar or non-availability of construction materials, the answer generally given is that the lack of diesel has severely affected the supply line between Raxaul and Katmandu. This has had a very bad impact on the overall economy and it has hit hard mostly people (?with low) incomes.

PAKISTAN

PRESIDENT HAQ ADDRESSES MILITARY PARADE ON NATIONAL DAY

BK230855 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 23 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The nation is observing National Day today to commemorate the historic Lahore resolution as a result of which Pakistan came into being.

Addressing a grand military parade in Rawalpindi on the occasion today, President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq exhorted the nation to take a pledge on this historic day to strengthen the country, maintain complete unity and do everything to promote Islamic values and ideology. He called on the 75 million people to work ceaselessly for the prosperity of the country in conditions of peace and stand united like a rock in the face of any threat to the security of the nation.

The president said history has taught us that countries holding expansionist designs only intervene when they see a lack of unity and solidarity in a country. He stressed that internal dissension and weakness invites foreign intervention, but when a country has internal unity and solidarity no one can cast an evil eye at it.

Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said after meeting the people that it is his impression that the whole nation is fully determined to stand on its own feet, and that it is imbued with the spirit to defend the independence of the country. He said that though material resources are needed to augment the country's defenses, history is witness to the fact that Muslims imbued with the apirit of faith have defeated opposing forces, possessing larger material and economic resources, several times.

Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said Pakistan cannot be indifferent to the events that have taken place along its western borders. He said that God's grace the defense of Pakistan is at present in trusted hands. We are fully aware of the situation. The president said the nation will in no way be left disappointed in the defense of the country. He said Pakistan cannot remain indifferent to the latest events that have taken place around it and the defense forces of Pakistan, keeping its high traditions, will carry out their responsibilities.

He said the direct effect of the Afghanistan situation on Pakistan is that 650,000 refugees have left their homeland and reached Pakistan. They came to Pakistan to preserve their faith and honor. President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said, despite its limited resources, Pakistan is providing for their material needs only on humanitarian grounds. Besides, our religious traditions also teach us to conduct such an attitude toward the refugees.

PRC LEADERS GREET PRESIDENT HAQ ON NATIONAL DAY

BK241111 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Mar 80 BK

[Text] The chairman of the Chinese National People's Congress and the Premier of China have said the traditional friendship between Pakistan and China is beneficial to regional peace and stability. In a joint message to President Mohammad Ziaul Haq on Pakistan Day, they said these relations are in the best interests of the two countries, have stood the test of time and are continuing to grow. The Chinese leaders expressed the hope that Pakistan's efforts to imporve its economy and strengthen its defense against foreign aggression will contribute to peace and stability in South Asia.

PRESIDENT HAQ SAYS LINKS MAINTAINED WITH MOSCOW, KABUL

BK240952 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 24 Mar 80 BK

[Text] President Gen Mohammed Ziaul Haq has said Pakistan has left the door open for talks on the situation resulting from the intervention in Afghanistan. However, all necessary measures are being taken for the security of the country.

Speaking informally to newsmen in Islamabad this morning, the president was asked if Pakistan has maintained any links with Moscow or Kabul on the situation in Afghanistan. The president emphasized [words indistinct] in international relations, as no one is a permanent friends or foe of anyone. The interests of the nation demand that we keep the door open for talks and continue negotiations.

Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said the government is doing everything possible for the benefit and welfare of the country and all steps thus far taken in this context have been welcomed by the people. The president said with God's continued grace we will (?receive support) for all necessary measures taken by us to deal with these problems for the security of the country.

Unconditional Aid Welcomed

BK241105 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 24 Mar 80 BK

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said Pakistan is keeping its options and doors open for dialog on the situation arising out of the crisis of Afghanistan, and at the same time taking other necessary measures that are vital for its security.

The president said this in reply to a question by newsmen in Islamabad this morning whether Pakistan was in touch with Moscow and Kabul over the Afghan situation. The president emphasized that in international affairs, like politics, the last word is never said because there are no permanent friends and no permanent enemies. The interest of the country demands that we must not close our options and the dialog must continue.

Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that the government is doing everything possible within its capability for the good of Pakistan. Whatever steps that had already been taken have been appreciated by the nation. In the future also [words indistinct], inshallah, give us the necessary sense and wisdom to take such measures which are considered important and necessary for the country's security.

The president's attention was also drawn by the newsmen to the reported American stand that it would be ready to extend economic aid to Pakistan despite its rejection of the package offer made by the U.S. To this the president said Pakistan would welcome economic assistance from any country provided it has no strings. The giving of aid should not give the right to anyone to interfere in our internal affairs. [words indistinct] we would be glad, rather grateful, to any country which extends economic assistance to Pakistan.

FRG PARLIAMENTARIAN PROMISES AID TO SOLVE REFUGEE PROBLEMS

LD241652 Hamburg DPA in German 1613 GMT 24 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Islamabad--The chairman of the Bundestag's foreign political committee, Gerhard Schroeder, has promised Pakistan the Federal Republic's support in solving its problems following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. During his visit to Pakistan, which lasted several days, the CDU politician, speaking in Rawalpindi today, promised aid for the 650,000 refugees from Afghanistan. Schroeder and his five-man delegation intend to go on to New Delhi on Saturday.

TURKISH AIR FORCE CHIEF LEAVES KARACHI FOR ANKARA 21 MAR

BK211656 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Turkish Air Force Commander Gen Tahsin Sahinkaya left Karachi for Ankara today ending an 8-day visit to Pakistan. Pakistani Air Force Chief Mohammad Anwar Shamim saw him off.

CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES 25 MAR

BK250823 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 25 Mar 80 BK

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Mr Isidoro Malmierca Peoli arrived in Islamabad this morning on a 3-day visit. He was welcomed at the airport by adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi.

Later, talks started at the Foreign Office between the Cuban foreign minister and the adviser on foreign affairs. The talks were continuing at latest report.